

**STATE OF MICHIGAN
STATE OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS AND RULES
FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY HEALTH**

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IN THE MATTER OF:

[REDACTED]

Appellant

_____ /

Docket No. 2009-24868 PA

[REDACTED]

DECISION AND ORDER

This matter is before the undersigned Administrative Law Judge pursuant to MCL 400.9 and 42 CFR 431.200 *et seq.*, upon the Appellant's request for a hearing.

After due notice, a hearing was held on [REDACTED]. The Appellant appeared without representation. She had no witnesses. [REDACTED], appeals review officer, represented the Department. Her witness was [REDACTED].

ISSUE

Did the Department properly deny Appellant's request for prior authorization (PA) of a complete dentures?

FINDINGS OF FACT

The Administrative Law Judge, based upon the competent, material and substantial evidence on the whole record, finds as material fact:

1. At the time of hearing, the Appellant is a [REDACTED] Medicaid and disabled SSI beneficiary. (Appellant's Exhibit #1)
2. The Appellant testified that her dentures broke when she dropped them – owing to illness. (See Testimony and Appellant's Exhibit #1)
3. The Appellant's dentist sought approval for complete upper/lower dentures on [REDACTED]. (Department's Exhibit A, p. 4)

4. On ██████████, the request was reviewed and denied as the Appellant was shown to have received complete upper/lower dentures on ██████████. (Department's Exhibit A, pp. 4, 6)
5. On ██████████ the Appellant was notified of the Department's denial. She was further advised of her appeal rights. (Department's Exhibit A, p. 5)
6. On ██████████, the SOAHR received the instant request for hearing brought by the Appellant. (Appellant's Exhibit #1)

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

The Medical Assistance Program is established pursuant to Title XIX of the Social Security Act and is implemented by Title 42 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR). It is administered in accordance with state statute, the Social Welfare Act, the Administrative Code, and the State Plan under Title XIX of the Social Security Act Medical Assistance Program.

1.10 PRIOR AUTHORIZATION

Medicaid requires prior authorization (PA) to cover certain services before those services are rendered to the beneficiary. The purpose of PA is to review the medical need for certain services. . . .

Medicaid Provider Manual, (MPM)
Practitioner, April 1, 2009, page 4.

Under the general policy instructions for Medicaid related dental services the MPM sets replacement schedules for denture repair and replacement:

Reimbursement for a complete or partial denture includes all necessary adjustments, relines, repairs, and duplications within six months of insertion. This includes such services for an immediate upper denture when authorized.

If a complete or partial denture requires an adjustment, reline, repair, or duplication within six months of insertion, but the services were not provided until after six months of insertion, no additional reimbursement is allowed for these services.

Complete or partial dentures are not authorized when:

- A previous prosthesis has been provided within five years, whether or not the existing denture was obtained through Medicaid.
- An adjustment, reline, repair, or duplication will make them serviceable.

- Replacement of a complete or partial denture that has been lost or broken beyond repair is not a benefit within five years, whether or not the existing denture was obtained through Medicaid.

MPM, Dental, §6.6A, April 1, 2009, p. 17

At hearing the Department witness, ██████████, explained that the Appellant's request was denied for failure to meet policy requirements for prosthesis replacement (partial or complete) on a 5-year rotation.

The Appellant said that she had been sick and that this caused her to drop her dentures. Next she added that she has developed a large cut in her mouth owing to the absence of dentures. This condition is aggravated by her diabetes.

The Appellant was advised that policy does not permit Medicaid reimbursement for a new dentures until the year 2011. The Appellant indicated her understanding on the record, but added that she had other medical data suggesting medical necessity. The record was left open to receive that information.¹

On review - I thought the Department's decision to deny the upper denture was correct, based on policy and supported by the credible testimony of witness ██████████.

DECISION AND ORDER

The Administrative Law Judge, based on the above findings of fact and conclusions of law, decides that the Department properly denied the Appellant's request for PA of a complete dentures.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that:

The Department's decision is AFFIRMED.

Dale Malewska
Administrative Law Judge
for Janet Olszewski, Director
Michigan Department of Community Health

cc: ██████████
██████████

¹ The medical information received consisted of (2) post petition notes from medical providers.

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Date Mailed: 8/12/2009

***** NOTICE *****

The State Office of Administrative Hearings and Rules may order a rehearing on either its own motion or at the request of a party within 30 days of the mailing date of this Decision and Order. The State Office of Administrative Hearings and Rules will not order a rehearing on the Department's motion where the final decision or rehearing cannot be implemented within 90 days of the filing of the original request. The Appellant may appeal the Decision and Order to Circuit Court within 30 days of the receipt of the Decision and Order or, if a timely request for rehearing was made, within 30 days of the receipt of the rehearing decision.