

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

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IN THE MATTER OF:

Docket No. 2009-26298 MSB

Case No. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
Appellant  
\_\_\_\_\_ /

**DECISION AND ORDER**

This matter is before the undersigned Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) pursuant to MCL 400.9 and MCL 400.37 upon the Appellant's request for a hearing.

After due notice, a hearing was held on [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] (Appellant) appeared and testified on her own behalf. [REDACTED], represented the Department. [REDACTED], testified as a witness for the Department. [REDACTED] served as an interpreter on behalf of the Appellant.

**ISSUE**

Did the Department properly deny payment of Appellant's medical bills?

**FINDINGS OF FACT**

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

1. The Appellant was a Medicaid Beneficiary with a Medicaid deductible during [REDACTED] and all times material to the disposition of this case.
2. During the month of [REDACTED], the Appellant received medical services from [REDACTED] and other providers.
3. The Appellant met her Medicaid deductible in [REDACTED].
4. The Appellant's [REDACTED] Medicaid eligibility was determined in [REDACTED]. The Appellant was mailed a Notice in [REDACTED] informing her of her eligibility for [REDACTED].

5. The bills submitted to the Department for medical expenses incurred in █ were paid with the exception of those used to meet her █ Medicaid deductible for the month of █. (testimony of Department witness at hearing)
6. The Appellant was billed by █ for services rendered in █. She met her Medicaid deductible for █. The Department did not determine she had met her Medicaid deductible for █ until █. The Department notified the Appellant she had met her Medicaid deductible for █ after █. (testimony of Department witness at hearing)
7. █ billed the Department for █ medical expenses prior to █, thus payment for the bill was denied. █ did not resubmit the bill for payment until after one year following the date of medical service rendered, thus it was denied for payment again. (testimony of Department witness)
8. The Appellant had medical services provided in █. She met her Medicaid deductible for that month and was notified of the same in █. Bills submitted by medical providers for services rendered in █ have been paid by the Department except those applied to meet her Medicaid deductible. (witness testimony from Department analyst)

### **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.

Providers cannot bill beneficiaries for services except in the following situations:

- A co-payment for chiropractic, dental, hearing aid, pharmacy, podiatric, or vision services is required. However, a provider cannot refuse to render service if the beneficiary is unable to pay the required co-payment on the date of service.
- A monthly patient-pay amount for inpatient hospital or nursing facility services. The local DHS determines the patient-pay amount. Non-covered services can be purchased by offsetting the nursing facility beneficiary's

patient-pay amount. (Refer to the Nursing Facility Chapter for more information.)

- For nursing facility (NF), state-owned and -operated facilities or CMHSP-operated facilities determine a financial liability or ability-to-pay amount separate from the DHS patient-pay amount. The state-owned and -operated facilities or CMHSP-operated facilities liability may be an individual, spouse, or parental responsibility. This responsibility is determined at initiation of services and is reviewed periodically. The beneficiary or his authorized representative is responsible for the state-owned and -operated facilities or CMHSP ability to pay amount, even if the patient-pay amount is greater.
- The provider has been notified by DHS that the beneficiary has an obligation to pay for part of, or all of, a service because services were applied to the beneficiary's Medicaid deductible amount.
- If the beneficiary is enrolled in a MHP and the health plan did not authorize a service, and the beneficiary had prior knowledge that he was liable for the service. (It is the provider's responsibility to determine eligibility/enrollment status of each beneficiary at the time of treatment and to obtain the appropriate authorization for payment. Failure of the provider to obtain authorization does not create a payment liability for the beneficiary.)
- Medicaid does not cover the service. If the beneficiary requests a service not covered by Medicaid, the provider may charge the beneficiary for the service if the beneficiary has been told prior to rendering the service that it was not covered by Medicaid. If the beneficiary is not informed of Medicaid non-coverage until after the services have been rendered; the provider cannot bill the beneficiary.
- The beneficiary refuses Medicare Part A or B.
- Beneficiaries may be billed the amount other insurance paid to the policyholder if the beneficiary is the policyholder.
- The beneficiary is the policyholder of the other insurance and the beneficiary did not follow the rules of the other insurance (e.g., utilizing network providers).
- The provider chooses not to accept the beneficiary as a Medicaid beneficiary and the beneficiary had prior knowledge of the situation. The beneficiary is responsible for payment.

It is recommended that providers obtain the beneficiary's written acknowledgement of payment responsibility prior to rendering any non-authorized or non-covered service the beneficiary elects to receive.

Some services are rendered over a period of time (e.g., maternity care). Since Medicaid does not normally cover services when a beneficiary is not eligible for Medicaid, the provider is encouraged to advise the beneficiary prior to the onset of services that the beneficiary is responsible for any services rendered during any periods of ineligibility. Exceptions to this policy are services/equipment (e.g., root canal therapy, dentures, customized seating systems) that began, but were not completed, during a period of eligibility. (Refer to the provider-specific chapters of this manual for more information regarding exceptions.)

When a provider accepts a patient as a Medicaid beneficiary, the beneficiary cannot be billed for:

- Medicaid-covered services. Providers must inform the beneficiary before the service is provided if Medicaid does not cover the service.
- Medicaid-covered services for which the provider has been denied payment because of improper billing, failure to obtain PA, or the claim is over one year old and has never been billed to Medicaid, etc.
- The difference between the provider's charge and the Medicaid payment for a service or for missed appointments.
- Copying of medical records for the purpose of supplying them to another health care provider.

If a provider is not enrolled in Medicaid, they do not have to follow Medicaid guidelines about reimbursement, even if the beneficiary has Medicare as primary.

If a Medicaid-only beneficiary understands that a provider is not accepting him as a Medicaid patient and asks to be private pay, the provider may charge the beneficiary its usual and customary charges for services rendered. The beneficiary must be advised prior to services being rendered that his **mihealth** card is not accepted and that he is responsible for payment. It is recommended that the provider obtain the beneficiary's acknowledgement of payment responsibility in writing for the specific services to be provided.

All claims must be submitted in accordance with the policies, rules, and procedures as stated in the manual.

Each claim received by MDCH receives a unique identifier called a Claim Reference Number (CRN). This is a ten-digit number found in the Remittance Advice (RA) that indicates the date the claim was entered into the MDCH Claims Processing (CP) System. The CRN is used when determining active review of a claim. (Refer to the Billing & Reimbursement Chapters for more information.) A claim must be initially received and acknowledged (i.e., assigned a CRN) by MDCH within twelve months from the date of service (DOS). DOS has several meanings:

- For inpatient hospitals, nursing facilities, and MHPs, it is the "From" or "Through" date indicated on the claim.
- For all other providers, it is the date the service was actually rendered or delivered.

**Claims over one year old** must have continuous active review to be considered for Medicaid reimbursement. Claim replacement can be resubmitted within 12 months of the latest RA date or other activity.

Active review means the claim was received and acknowledged by MDCH within twelve months from the DOS. In addition, claims with DOS over one year old must be billed within 120 days from the date of the last rejection. For most claims, MDCH reviews the claims history file for verification of active review.

Only the following types of claims require documentation of previous activity in the Remarks section of the claim:

- Claim replacements;
- Claims previously billed under a different provider ID number;
- Claims previously billed under a different beneficiary ID number; and
- Claims previously billed using a different DOS, "statement covers period" for nursing facilities and inpatient hospitals.

There are occasions when providers are not able to bill within the established time frames (e.g., awaiting notification of retroactive beneficiary eligibility). In these situations, the provider should submit a

claim to Medicaid, knowing the claim will be rejected. This gives the provider a CRN to document continuous active review.

Exceptions may be made to the billing limitation policy in the following circumstances.

- Department administrative error occurred, including:
  - The provider received erroneous written instructions from MDCH staff;
  - MDCH staff failed to enter (or entered erroneous) authorization, level of care, or restriction on the system;
  - MDCH contractor issued an erroneous PA; and
  - Other administrative errors by MDCH or its contractors that can be documented.

Retroactive provider enrollment is not considered an exception to the billing limitation.

- Medicaid beneficiary eligibility/authorization was established retroactively:
  - Beneficiary eligibility/authorization was established more than twelve months after the DOS; and
  - The provider submitted the initial invoice within twelve months of the establishment of beneficiary eligibility/authorization.
- Judicial Action/Mandate: A court or MDCH administrative law judge ordered payment of the claim.
- Medicare processing was delayed: The claim was submitted to Medicare within 120 days of the DOS and Medicare submitted the claim to Medicaid within 120 days of the subsequent resolution. (Refer to the Coordination of Benefits Chapter in this manual for further information.)

Providers who have claims meeting either of the first two exception criteria must contact their local DHS office to initiate the following exception process:

- The DHS caseworker completes and submits the Request for Exception to the Twelve-Month Billing Limitation for Medical Services form (MSA-1038) to MDCH.
- DHS informs the provider when the MSA-1038 has been approved by MDCH.

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- Once informed of the approval, the provider prepares claims related to the exception, indicating “MSA-1038 approval on file” in the comment section.
- The provider submits claims to MDCH through the normal submission process.

Refer to the Billing & Reimbursement chapters of this manual for additional information on claim submission. Questions regarding claims submitted under this exception should be directed to MDCH Provider Inquiry. (Refer to the Directory Appendix for contact information.)

*Medicaid Provider Manual, General Information for Providers Section,  
July 1, 2005, Pages 19-21*

The Appellant is contesting responsibility for bills for medical expenses from three different months during which she met her Medicaid deductible. In █ she did meet her deductible and was notified of the same. It was thereafter her obligation to notify her medical providers of her eligibility so that they could submit the bills for payment. The providers must do so within one year of the time medical services are rendered in order to obtain payment. In this case there is uncontested testimony the Appellant’s medical providers who did submit bills for services rendered in █ were paid, following application of the deductible amount for the month, which was █. The Appellant provided no evidence of a medical bill that had been submitted timely for payment by a provider that was not paid.

In █ she again met her medical deductible. The Department determined she was eligible for █ full coverage Medicaid █, and notified her of the same. At least one provider, █, had submitted a bill for payment prior to █, thus the Department had denied payment of the bill. It cannot be determined if the Appellant ever notified █ of her eligibility at anytime after █, and in time for the hospital to re-submit the bill in time for payment. There is no credible evidence regarding this issue of notification, from either █ or the Appellant regarding the notification issue. It could only be said that the bill was not re-submitted at anytime between █, and the date the services were rendered. If it had been submitted, the Department would have paid it (assuming it was a covered service) because the Department records indicate she was eligible for Medicaid in █. There is no evidence the Department improperly denied payment of a bill that had been timely submitted for payment.

In █, again, the Appellant achieved Medicaid eligible status. This was determined in █ and she was notified of the same. The medical providers who did submit bills for services rendered in █ were paid with the exception of those needed to apply to the Medicaid deductible. The Appellant challenged this testimony from the Department witness by citing a pharmacy bill she

stated was paid on her behalf and should have applied to her █ Medicaid deductible. This ALJ did examine the pharmacy bill and it was from █. This cannot be applied to a █ Medicaid deductible for obvious reasons. Additional documents were faxed to the attention of this ALJ following the █, hearing which were not accepted into evidence. The record had not been kept open to allow submission of additional documents for the purposes of hearing. The credible evidence provided by the Department witness established she had a Medicaid deductible █ and the bills submitted were first applied to meet the deductible amount and then those medical providers who submitted timely bills for eligible expenses were paid. Given the Department records indicate she was eligible for █, it is logical and consistent that medical providers who submitted their bills would have been paid. The Appellant did not submit any credible evidence she had submitted medical bills eligible for payment by the Department which the Department did not pay.

**DECISION AND ORDER**

The Administrative Law Judge, based on the above findings of fact and conclusions of law, finds the Department did not improperly deny payment of any eligible medical bills submitted by the Appellant.

**IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED** that:

The Department's decision is AFFIRMED.

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Jennifer Isiogu  
Administrative Law Judge  
for Janet Olszewski, Director  
Michigan Department of Community Health

cc: █  
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Date Mailed: 9/10/2009

**\*\*\* 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.