

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

P.O. Box 30763, Lansing, MI 48909
(877) 833-0870; Fax: (517) 334-9505

IN THE MATTER OF:

████████████████████

Appellant

_____ /

**Docket No. 2009-20583CL
Case No. ██████████**

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 ██████████. The Appellant appeared without representation. She had no witnesses. ██████████, appeals review officer, represented the Department. Her witness was ██████████.

ISSUE

Did the Department properly deny Appellant's request for Wipes?

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 is an ██████████ Medicare/Medicaid beneficiary. (Appellant's Exhibit #1)
2. The Appellant is afflicted with IBS and diarrhea. (See Testimony and Appellant's Exhibit #1)
3. The Appellant is largely homebound but testified that she likes to go to the movies, restaurants and the park but is presently unable to make it through the night without utilizing the wipes. (See Testimony)

¹ However, the Appellant's daughter is later identified in the background giving the Appellant the answers to questions.

Decision & Order

4. On ██████████, a prior authorization request for incontinent wipes was received by the Department from JB Medical.
5. On ██████████ the Appellant was advised on the denial of the requested incontinent wipes. She was further informed of her right to appeal. (Department's Exhibit A, p. 4)
6. On ██████████, the instant appeal was received by the State Office of Administrative Hearings and Rules (SOAHR). (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.

The Department policy for incontinent wipes coverage is addressed in the Medicaid Provider Manual:

[] Incontinent Supplies

Incontinent supplies are items used to assist individuals with the inability to control excretory functions.

The type of coverage for incontinent supplies may be dependent on the success or failure of a bowel/bladder training program. A bowel/bladder training program is defined as instruction offered to the beneficiary to facilitate:

- Independent care of bodily functions through proper toilet training.
- Appropriate self-catheter care to decrease risk of urinary infections and/or avoid bladder distention.
- Proper techniques related to routine bowel evacuation.

Diapers, incontinent pants, liners, and belted/unbelted undergarments without sides are covered for individuals age three or older if both of the following applies:

- A medical condition resulting in incontinence and there is no response to a bowel/bladder training program.
- The medical condition being treated results in incontinence, and beneficiary would not benefit from or has failed a bowel/bladder training program.

Pull-on briefs are covered for beneficiaries age 3 through 20 when there is the presence of a medical condition causing bowel/bladder incontinence, and one of the following applies:

- The beneficiary would not benefit from a bowel/bladder program but has the cognitive ability to independently care for his/her toileting needs, or
- The beneficiary is actively participating and demonstrating definitive progress in a bowel/bladder program.

Pull-on briefs are covered for beneficiaries age 21 and over when there is the presence of a medical condition causing bowel/bladder incontinence and the beneficiary is able to care for his/her toileting needs independently or with minimal assistance from a caregiver.

Pull-on briefs are considered a short-term transitional product that requires a reassessment every six months. The assessment must detail definitive progress being made in the bowel/bladder training. Pull-on briefs covered as a long-term item require a reassessment once a year. Documentation of the reassessment must be kept in the beneficiary's file.

Incontinent wipes are covered when necessary to maintain cleanliness **outside** of the home.

Intermittent catheters are covered when catheterization is required due to severe bladder dysfunction.

Hydrophilic-coated intermittent catheters are considered for individuals that have Mitrofanoff stomas, partial stricture or small, tortuous urethras.

Intermittent catheters with insertion supplies are covered for beneficiaries who have a chronic urinary dysfunction for which sterile technique is clinically required.

Disposable underpads are covered for beneficiaries of all ages with a medical condition resulting in incontinence.

(Emphasis supplied) Medicaid Provider Manual (MPM) Medical Supplier, April 1, 2009, p. 40

The Department witness testified that the Appellant was not eligible for the incontinent product as she was reported by her daughter as "...hardly ever goes out." Since the product is limited to use outside of the home the request was denied.

The Appellant said she needs the product and enjoys going out – she said she did not know why her daughter said she did not go out – although she testified that her daughter helps her at home.

On review, the Department witness reviewed the documentation submitted with the Appellant's request for incontinent wipes. She denied the request for lack of evidence that the Appellant was using the product as regulated – outside of the home.

The evidence provided by the Department established that the Appellant does not travel outside of the home. It appeared that the Appellant was focused on convenience and cost. The Appellant failed to preponderate her burden of proof that she needs the incontinent wipes outside of the home.

Therefore, the denial of coverage for Incontinent Wipes must be upheld.

DECISION AND ORDER

The Administrative Law Judge, based on the above findings of fact and conclusions of law, decides that the Department properly denied coverage of Incontinent Wipes.

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: 

Date Mailed: 

Docket No. 2009-20583
Decision & Order

***** 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.