

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

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IN THE MATTER OF:

██████████,

Appellant

_____ /

Docket No. 2009-26803 HHS

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 ██████████. ██████████ was represented by his mother, ██████████. ██████████, Appeals and Review Officer, represented the Department of Community Health. ██████████, Adult Services Worker, appeared as a witness on behalf of the Department.

ISSUE

Did the Department properly reduce Home Help Services payments to the Appellant?

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 a ██████████ Medicaid beneficiary who participates in the Home Help Services (HHS) program.
2. The Appellant is in need of total assistance for all of his Activities of Daily living and Instrumental Activities of Daily Living.
3. The Appellant's case was scheduled for an assessment on ██████████

4. The Department's worker conducted the assessment in ██████████. As result of the assessment, the worker implemented reductions for the tasks of housekeeping, meal preparation, laundry and shopping. The reductions were based upon the fact the Appellant resides with his family in a shared household.
5. The functional assessment and rank for the tasks of shopping, meal preparation, housework and laundry were not changed or reduced as a result of the home call. The reduction was strictly the result of implementing the policy regarding shared households.
6. The Appellant requested a hearing ██████████
7. The hearing was held by ALJ Malewska on the scheduled date and time.
8. ALJ Malewska is unavailable to write the Decision and Order. ALJ Isiogu wrote the Decision and Order on behalf of ALJ Malewska following review of all the evidence taken at hearing.

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 Administrative Code, and the State Plan under Title XIX of the Social Security Act Medical Assistance Program.

Home Help Services (HHS) are provided to enable functionally limited individuals to live independently and receive care in the least restrictive, preferred settings. These activities must be certified by a physician and may be provided by individuals or by private or public agencies.

Adult Services Manual (ASM 363 7-1-2009), addresses the issue of assessment:

COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENT

The Adult Services Comprehensive Assessment (DHS-324) is the primary tool for determining need for services. The comprehensive assessment will be completed on all open cases, whether a home help payment will be made or not. ASCAP, the automated workload management system provides the format for the comprehensive assessment and all information will be entered on the computer program.

Requirements for the comprehensive assessment include, but are not limited to:

- A comprehensive assessment will be completed on all new cases.
- A face-to-face contact is required with the customer in his/her place of residence.
- An interview must be conducted with the caregiver, if applicable.
- Observe a copy of the customer's social security card.
- Observe a picture I.D. of the caregiver, if applicable.
- The assessment must be updated as often as necessary, but minimally at the six-month review and annual redetermination.
- A release of information must be obtained when requesting documentation from confidential sources and/or sharing information from the agency record.
- Follow specialized rules of confidentiality when ILS cases have companion APS cases.

Functional Assessment

The **Functional Assessment** module of the **ASCAP** comprehensive assessment is the basis for service planning and for the HHS payment.

Conduct a functional assessment to determine the customer's ability to perform the following activities:

Activities of Daily Living (ADL)

- Eating
- Toileting
- Bathing
- Grooming
- Dressing
- Transferring
- Mobility

Instrumental Activities of Daily Living (IADL)

- Taking Medication
- Meal Preparation and Cleanup
- Shopping for food and other necessities of daily living
- Laundry
- Housework

Functional Scale ADL's and IADL's are assessed according to the following five-point scale:

1. Independent
Performs the activity safely with no human assistance.
2. Verbal Assistance
Performs the activity with verbal assistance such as reminding, guiding or encouraging.
3. Some Human Assistance
Performs the activity with some direct physical assistance and/or assistive technology.
4. Much Human Assistance
Performs the activity with a great deal of human assistance and/or assistive technology.
5. Dependent
Does not perform the activity even with human assistance and/or assistive technology.

Note: HHS payments may only be authorized for needs assessed at the 3 level or greater.

Time and Task

The worker will allocate time for each task assessed a rank of 3 or higher, based on interviews with the customer and provider, observation of the customer's abilities and use of the reasonable time schedule (RTS) as a guide. The RTS can be found in **ASCAP** under the **Payment** module, Time and Task screen.

IADL Maximum Allowable Hours

There are monthly maximum hour limits on all IADLs except medication. The limits are as follows:

- 5 hours/month for shopping for food and other necessities of daily living
- 6 hours/month for housework
- 7 hours/month for laundry
- 25 hours/month for meal preparation

These are maximums; as always, if the customer needs fewer hours, that is what must be authorized. Hours should continue to be prorated in shared living arrangements.

Service Plan Development

Address the following factors in the development of the service plan:

- The specific services to be provided, by whom and at what cost.
- The extent to which the customer does not perform activities essential to caring for self. The intent of the Home Help program is to assist individuals to function as independently as possible. It is important to work with the recipient and the provider in developing a plan to achieve this goal.
- The kinds and amounts of activities required for the customer's maintenance and functioning in the living environment.
- The availability or ability of a responsible relative or legal dependent of the customer to perform the tasks the customer does not perform. Authorize HHS **only** for those services or times which the responsible relative/legal dependent is unavailable or unable to provide.
- Do **not** authorize HHS payments to a responsible relative or legal dependent of the customer.
- The extent to which others in the home are able and available to provide the needed services. Authorize HHS **only** for the benefit of the customer and **not** for others in the home. If others are living in the home, prorate the IADL's by at least 1/2, more if appropriate.
- The availability of services currently provided free of charge. A written statement by the provider that he is no longer able to furnish the service at no cost is sufficient for payment to be authorized as long as the provider is not a responsible relative of the customer.

- HHS may be authorized when the customer is receiving other home care services if the services are not duplicative (same service for same time period).

Adult Services Manual (ASM) 7-1-2009

In this case the Appellant's functional assessment is not contested. The Appellant's asserts she was told she was getting the maximum assistance available for her son yet the payment has been reduced. She presented testimony regarding his total care needs, medication and meal preparation requirements. She did assert she prepares his meals whenever he requests them, day or night and eats separately from her son. In essence, she asserted pro-rating the payment for the tasks is inappropriate due to the particular circumstances of her son's case and his needs.

The policy implemented by the worker is recognition of the fact that in most cases, certain tasks are performed that benefit all members who reside in the home together, such as cleaning, laundry, shopping and meal preparation. Normally, it is appropriate to pro-rate the payment for those tasks by the number of adults residing in the home together, as the Appellant's mother and other household members would have to clean their own home, make meals, shop and do laundry for themselves if they did not reside with the Appellant. The program will not compensate for tasks that benefit members of the same household. This is the reasoning behind the policy and what the worker sought to implement following the home call.

There was evidence taken for meal preparation. The uncontested evidence from the Appellant's mother is that she feeds her son whenever he wants something to eat and that could be any time of the day or night. While this testimony is found credible, it does not establish a valid reason to disregard the policy for prorating the meal preparation time authorized. Perhaps if there were medical documentation that an extraordinary amount of time and separate meal preparation is medically necessary, the worker or this ALJ would have sufficient documentation to depart from the written Department Policy. The testimony alone is insufficient to support departure from the Department Policy.

The evidence regarding shopping is that the maximum was assigned due to the Appellant's restrictions. Then it was pro-rated to reflect the shared living arrangements. There was no evidence offered justifying departure from the Department policy for this task.

No evidence was taken regarding household chores, such as cleaning. There is no evidence of any reason not to fully implement the shared household policy with respect to cleaning chores. This reduction is sustained.

DECISION AND ORDER

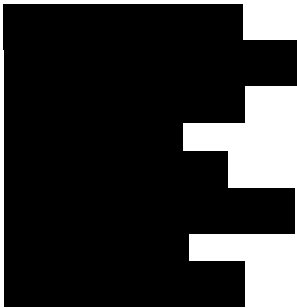
The Administrative Law Judge, based on the above findings of fact and conclusions of law, finds that the Department properly reduced the Appellant's HHS payments in the areas of laundry, household chores, shopping and meal preparation.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that:

The Department's decision is **AFFIRMED**.

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

cc:



Date Mailed: 9/18/2009

***** 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.