

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
STATE OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS AND RULES  
ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS FOR THE  
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

IN THE MATTER OF THE CLAIM OF:

[REDACTED]

Reg No. 201010625  
Issue No. 2026  
Case No. [REDACTED]  
Load No. [REDACTED]  
Hearing Date: July 21, 2010  
Washtenaw County DHS

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE:** Carmen G. Fahie

**HEARING DECISION**

This matter is before the undersigned Administrative Law Judge pursuant to MCL 400.9 and MCL 400.37 upon the claimant's request for a hearing. After due notice, a telephone hearing was held on Wednesday, July 21, 2010. The claimant personally appeared and testified on her own behalf.

**ISSUE**

Did the department properly place the claimant's Medical Assistance (MA) case in spend-down status and determine her monthly deductible?

**FINDINGS OF FACT**

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

1. The claimant was a recipient of MA benefits with a redetermination required in October 2009.
2. On September 1, 2009, the department caseworker conducted a telephone interview and completed the claimant's redetermination on Bridges.
3. The claimant receives [REDACTED] in Social Security Retirement, Survivor's and Disability Insurance (RSDI) income. (Department Exhibit 81)
4. On September 1, 2009, the department caseworker calculated the claimant's continued eligibility for MA benefits based on Social Security RSDI income of [REDACTED] (Department Exhibit AE3):

- The claimant had unearned income of [REDACTED].
  - The claimant had a net unearned income of [REDACTED], resulting from the \$20 unearned income general exclusion from the claimant's [REDACTED] unearned income.
  - The claimant had a protected income limit of \$408.
  - The claimant had a deductible of [REDACTED], resulting from the claimant's protected income limit of \$408 minus her countable income of [REDACTED].
5. On September 1, 2009, the department caseworker sent the claimant a notice that effective October 1, 2009 that due to excess income, she had a spend-down in the amount of [REDACTED] which she must meet in order to become Group 2 MA eligible.
6. On November 13, 2009, the department received a hearing request from the claimant, contesting the department's negative action.

### **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

The Medical Assistance (MA) program is established by the Title XIX of the Social Security Act and is implemented by Title 42 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR). The Department of Human Services (formerly known as the Family Independence Agency) administers the MA program pursuant to MCL 400.10, *et seq.*, and MCL 400.105. Department policies are found in the Bridges Administrative Manual (BAM), the Bridges Eligibility Manual (BEM) and the Program Reference Manual (PRM).

The department's program eligibility manuals provide the following relevant policy statements and instructions for caseworkers:

#### **MA GROUP 2 INCOME ELIGIBILITY**

##### **Deductible**

Deductible is a process which allows a client with excess income to become eligible for Group 2 MA if sufficient allowable medical expenses are incurred.

##### **Active Deductible**

Open an MA case **without ongoing Group 2 MA coverage** on CIMS as long as:

- The fiscal group has excess income, **and**
- At least one fiscal group member meets all other Group 2 MA eligibility factors.

Such cases are called active deductible cases. Periods of MA coverage are added on CIMS each time the group meets it deductible.

### **Deductible Period**

Each calendar month is a separate spend-down period.

### **Deductible Amount**

The fiscal group's monthly excess income is called a deductible amount. PEM 545, pp. 8-9.

### **Meeting a Deductible**

Meeting a deductible means reporting and verifying allowable medical expenses (defined in "**EXHIBIT I**") that equal or exceed the deductible amount for the calendar month tested. PEM, Item 545, p. 9.

The group must report expenses by the last day of the third month following the month for which it wants MA coverage. PAM 130 explains verification and timeliness standards. PEM, Item 545. p. 9.

The goal of the Medicaid program is to ensure that essential health care services are made available to those who otherwise could not afford them. Medicaid is also known as Medical Assistance (MA). BEM 105.

The State of Michigan has set guidelines for income, which determine if an MA group is eligible. Income eligibility exists for the calendar month tested when:

- . There is no excess income, **or**
- . Allowable medical expenses equal or exceed the excess income (under the Deductible Guidelines). BEM 545.

Net income (countable income minus allowable income deductions) must be at or below a certain income limit for eligibility to exist. BEM 105. Income eligibility exists when net income does **not** exceed the Group 2 needs in BEM 544. BEM 166. The protected income level is a set allowance for non-medical need items such as shelter, food and incidental expenses. PRT 240 lists the Group 2 MA protected income levels based on shelter area and fiscal group size. BEM 544. An eligible Medical Assistance group (Group 2 MA) has income the same as or less than the "protected income level" as set forth in the policy contained in the Program Reference Table (PRT).

An individual or MA group whose income is in excess of the monthly protected income level is ineligible to receive MA. However, a MA group may become eligible for assistance under the deductible program. The deductible program is a process, which allows a client with excess income to be eligible for MA, if sufficient allowable medical expenses are incurred. Each calendar month is a separate deductible period. The fiscal group's monthly excess income is called the deductible amount. Meeting a deductible means reporting and verifying allowable medical expenses that equal or exceed the deductible amount for the calendar month. The MA group must report expenses by the last day of the third month following the month it wants medical coverage. BEM 545; 42 CFR 435.831.

In this case, the claimant had a fiscal group net income of [REDACTED]. The claimant's protected income level for her shelter area for a group size of one is \$408. After subtracting the claimant's total needs amount of \$408 from a total fiscal group net income of [REDACTED], the claimant would be left with an excess income or deductible amount of [REDACTED].

Therefore, the claimant's MA deductible determination must be upheld.

**DECISION AND ORDER**

The Administrative Law Judge, based upon the above findings of fact and conclusions of law decides that the department properly placed the claimant's MA case in spend-down status and determined the monthly deductible of [REDACTED].

Accordingly, the department's MA deductible action is **AFFIRMED**.

/s/ \_\_\_\_\_  
Carmen G. Fahie  
Administrative Law Judge  
For Ismael Ahmed, Director  
Department of Human Services

Date Signed: August 27, 2010

Date Mailed: August 27, 2010

**NOTICE:** Administrative Hearings may order a rehearing or reconsideration on either its own motion or at the request of a party within 30 days of the mailing date of this Decision and Order. Administrative Hearings will not order a rehearing or reconsideration on the Department's motion where the final decision cannot be implemented within 90 days of the filing of the original request.

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The Claimant may appeal the Decision and Order to Circuit Court within 30 days of the mailing of the Decision and Order or, if a timely request for rehearing was made, within 30 days of the receipt date of the rehearing decision.

CGF/vc

cc:

