

**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. 2010-42515 HHS  
Case No. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED],

Appellant

\_\_\_\_\_ /

**DECISION AND ORDER**

This matter is before the undersigned Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) 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 [REDACTED]. [REDACTED], the Appellant was present and testified on her own behalf. Her granddaughter and chore provider was present and provided testimony at the hearing.

[REDACTED], represented the Department of Community Health. [REDACTED], was present on behalf of the Department.

**ISSUE**

Did the Department properly reduce the 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 [REDACTED] Medicaid beneficiary who participates in the Home Help Services (HHS) program.
2. The Appellant resides with [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] in one home.
3. The Appellant receives payment assistance for the tasks of bathing, medication, housework, laundry, shopping, and meal preparation.

4. The Appellant's payment assistance for the tasks of meal preparation, laundry, shopping and housework were pro-rated after the Department's worker learned she was residing with her daughter, who also has a Home Help Services case opened.
5. The Department sent the Appellant an Advance Negative Action Notice ██████████. The effective date was ██████████.
6. The Appellant sent a hearing request, which was received by the Department of Community Health on ██████████.

### **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.

Program requirements are set forth in Adult Services Manual item 362, below:

**GENERAL SERVICES REQUIREMENTS** The client must sign an Adult Services Application (DHS-390) to receive ILS. An authorized representative or other person acting for the client may sign the DHS-390 if the client:

- Is incapacitated, **or**
- Has been determined incompetent, **or**
- Has an emergency. A client unable to write may sign with an "X", witnessed by one other person (e.g., relative or department staff). Adult services workers must not sign the services application (DHS-390) for the client. Eligibility must be determined within 45 days of the signature date on the DHS-390.

**Note:** ASSIST (Automated Social Services Information and Support) requires a disposition within 30 days of the registered request. See ASSIST User Manual (AUM) 150-7/8. The DHS-390 is valid indefinitely unless the case is closed for more than 90 days.

## ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

**Independent Living Services** The following **nonpayment** related independent living services are available to any person upon request **regardless** of income or resources:

- Counseling.
- Education and training.
- Employment.
- Family planning.
- Health related.
- Homemaking.
- Housing.
- Information and referral.
- Money management.
- Protection (For adults in need of a conservator or a guardian, but who are not in any immediate need for protective service intervention.)

**Home Help Services (HHS) Payment** related independent living services are available if the client meets HHS eligibility requirements. Clients who may have a need for HHS should be assisted in applying for Medicaid (MA). Refer the client to an eligibility specialist. Cases pending MA determination may be opened to program 9 (ILS). HHS eligibility requirements include all of the following:

- The client must be eligible for Medicaid.
- Have a scope of coverage of:
  - 1F or 2F,
  - 1D or 1K, (Freedom to Work), **or**
  - 1T (Healthy Kids Expansion).
- The client must have a need for service, based on
  - Client choice, **and**
  - Comprehensive Assessment (DHS-324) indicating a functional limitation of level 3 or greater in an ADL or IADL.
- Medical Needs (DHS-54A) form signed and dated by a medical professional certifying a medical need for personal care services. The medical professional must be an enrolled Medicaid provider and hold one of the following professional licenses:
  - Physician.
  - Nurse practitioner.

- Occupational therapist.
- Physical therapist.

ASM 362, 12-1-2007

Manual Item 363 addresses what a comprehensive assessment consists of, as well as other program procedures.

### **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 re-determination.
- A release of information must be obtained when requesting documentation from confidential sources and/or sharing information from the department 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
- 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 the interviews with the client and provider, observation of the client'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. When hours exceed the RTS rationale must be provided.

**IADL Maximum Allowable Hours**

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

- Five hours/month for shopping
- Six hours/month for light housework
- Seven hours/month for laundry
- 25 hours/month for meal preparation.

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

A service plan must be developed for all ILS cases. The service plan is formatted in ASCAP and interacts with the comprehensive assessment. The service plan directs the movement and progress toward goals identified jointly by the client and specialist.

**Philosophy**

Service planning is person-centered and strength-based. Areas of concern should be identified as an issue in the comprehensive assessment to properly develop a plan of service.

Participants in the plan should involve not only the client, but also family, significant others, and the caregiver, if applicable.

Involvement of the client's support network is based on the best practice principles of adult services and the mission of the Department of Human Services, which focus on:

- Strengthening families and individuals.
- The role of family in case planning.
- Coordinating with all relevant community-based services, and
- Promoting client independence and self-sufficiency.

Service plans are to be completed on all new cases, updated as often as necessary, but minimally at the six month review and annual reassessment.

### **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 Client does not perform activities essential to the 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 client's maintenance and functioning in the living environment.
- The availability or ability of a responsible relative or legal dependent of the client to perform the tasks the client does not perform. Authorize HHS only for those services or times which the responsible relative/legal dependent is unavailable or unable to provide.

Note: Unavailable means absence from the home, for employment or other legitimate reasons. Unable means the

responsible person has disabilities of his/her own which prevent caregiving. These disabilities must be documented/verified by a medical professional on the DHS-54A.

- Do not authorize HHS payments to a responsible relative or legal dependent of the client.
- 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 client 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.** (emphasis added by ALJ)
- 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 client.
- HHS may be authorized when the client is receiving other home care services if the services are not duplicative (same service for the same time period).

**Good Practices** Service plan development practices will include the use of the following skills:

- **Listen actively** to the client.
- Encourage clients to **explore options** and select the appropriate services and supports.
- Monitor for **congruency** between case assessment and service plan.
- Provide the necessary supports to **assist clients in applying for resources.**
- Continually **reassess** case planning.
- Enhance/preserve the client's **quality of life.**
- **Monitor and document** the status of all **referrals** to waiver programs and other community resources **to ensure quality outcomes.**



## REVIEWS

ILS cases must be reviewed every six months. A face-to-face contact is required with the client, in the home. If applicable, the interview must also include the caregiver.

### Six Month Review

Requirements for the review contact must include:

- A review of the current comprehensive assessment and service plan.
- A reevaluation of the client's Medicaid eligibility, if home help services are being paid.
- Follow-up collateral contacts with significant others to assess their role in the case plan.
- Review of client satisfaction with the delivery of planned services.

### Documentation

Case documentation for all reviews should include:

- Update the "**Disposition**" module in ASCAP.
- Generate the CIMS Services Transaction (DHS-5S) from **forms** in **ASCAP**.
- Review of **all** ASCAP modules **and** update information as needed.
- Enter a brief statement of the nature of the contact and who was present in **Contact Details** module of ASCAP.
- Record expanded details of the contact in **General Narrative**, by clicking on **Add to & Go To Narrative** button in **Contacts** module.
- Record summary of progress in service plan by clicking on **Insert New Progress Statement in General Narrative** button, found in any of the **Service Plan** tabs. **Annual Redetermination** Procedures and case documentation for the annual review are the same as the six month review, with the following additions:

Requirements:

- A reevaluation of the client's Medicaid eligibility, if home help services are being paid. • A new medical needs (DHS-54A) certification, if home help services are being paid.

**Note:** The medical needs form for SSI recipients will **only** be required at the initial opening and is no longer required in the redetermination process.

All other Medicaid recipients will need to have a DHS-54A completed at the initial opening and then annually thereafter.

- A face-to-face meeting with the care provider, if applicable. This meeting may take place in the office, if appropriate.

### **ELIGIBILITY FOR HOME HELP SERVICES**

Home help services (HHS) are defined as those which the department is paying for through Title XIX (Medicaid) funds. The client must be eligible for Medicaid in order to receive these services.

### **Medicaid/Medical Aid(MA)**

Verify the client's Medicaid/Medical aid status. The client may be eligible for MA under one of the following:

- All requirements for MA have been met, **or**
- MA deductible obligation has been met. The client must have a scope of coverage of:
  - 1F or 2F, **or**
  - 1D or 1K (Freedom to Work), **or**
  - 1T (Healthy Kids Expansion).

Clients with eligibility status 07 (Income scale 2-Non MA) and scope of coverage 20 or 2B are **not** eligible for Medicaid until they have met their MA deductible obligation.

An ILS case may be opened (service program 9) to assist the client in becoming MA eligible. However, do **not** authorize HHS payment prior to the MA eligibility date. The payment must be prorated if the eligibility period is less than the full month. To prorate, divide the monthly care cost by the number of days in the month. Then, multiple that daily rate by the number of eligible days.

**Note:** A change in the scope of coverage by the eligibility specialist (ES) will generate a DHS-5S for cases active to services programs 1, 7, and 9.

### **Necessity For Service**

The adult services worker is responsible for determining the necessity and level of need for HHS based on:

- Client choice.
- A complete comprehensive assessment and determination of the client's need for personal care services.
- Verification of the client's medical need by a Medicaid enrolled medical professional. The client is responsible for obtaining the medical certification of need. The Medicaid provider identification number must be entered on the form by the medical provider. The Medical Needs form must be signed and dated by one of the following medical professionals:
  - Physician.
  - Nurse practitioner.
  - Occupational therapist.
  - Physical therapist.

**Exception:** DCH will accept a DHS-54A completed by a VA physician or the VA medical form in lieu of the medical needs form. The medical professional certifies that the client's need for service is related to an existing medical condition. The medical professional does not prescribe or authorize personal care services. If the medical needs form has not been returned, the adult services worker should follow-up with the client and/or medical professional. If the case is closed and reopened within 90 days with no changes in the client's condition, a new DHS-54A is not necessary. Do **not** authorize HHS prior to the date of the medical professional signature on the DHS-54A.

**Payment for Medical Exams:**

The Medicaid card is to be used to pay for medical professional charges for examinations or tests to certify the client's need for services and for completing the DHS-54A for MA recipients. Use the Examination Authorization/Invoice for Services (DHS-93) to pay for professional charges for non-MA clients. Payment is limited to the medical procedures and tests necessary to certify the client's need for home help services. See SRM 234, Diagnostic Fee Schedule.

**Medical Review Team (MRT)**

If the client refuses to see a physician, or the physician refuses to complete a DHS-54A, forward medical and case information to the Medical Review Team (MRT) through the local office medical contact worker and/or the local office's

designated person responsible for reviewing medical information. Attach a cover memo explaining the reason a MRT evaluation is needed. The local office designee will forward the packet to the regional Disability Determination Services (DDS) MRT. The MRT will make a determination and return the forms. See L-letter 00-130, June 20, 2000. The MRT may also be used if the client's physician does not certify a need for personal care services, but services appear to be justified.

**Services not Covered by Home Help Services**

Do **not** authorize HHS payment for the following:

- Supervising, monitoring, reminding, guiding or encouraging (functional assessment rank 2);
- Services provided for the benefit of others;
- Services for which a responsible relative is able and available to provide;
- Services provided free of charge;
- Services provided by another resource at the same time;
- Transportation - See Program Administrative Manual (PAM) 825 for medical transportation policy and procedures.
- Money management, e.g., power of attorney, representative payee;
- Medical services;
- Home delivered meals;
- Adult day care.

**Note:** If it appears the client's primary need is for adult foster care (AFC) or foster care is being provided without a license, the case should be referred to the local AFC licensing consultant.

ASM 363, 9-1-2008

In this case, the Appellant stated her granddaughter performs all the work necessary for her to remain in her home. She disputes the assertion from the Department that she cooks for herself. She stated the last time she attempted to prepare her own meal she nearly burned the house down also she is not allowed to use the stove any longer. She disputed the Department's claim that she said at review she makes her own meals at least 50% of the time. She further testified, in response to questions asked by this ALJ that her daughter is very ill, had no place to go and is in and out of the hospital, so that is why she let her live there. She said she had no idea she was also getting Home Help Services. She testified under oath that to her knowledge her daughter does not have anyone coming into the home to take care of her or prepare meals for her.

The Appellant's granddaughter stated she lives upstairs and goes downstairs to take care of her grandmother. She disputes the reduction in meal preparation and admitted her grandmother is capable of re-heating food already prepared for her, making toast and/or cereal for herself. She did not dispute the other reductions.

The Department's witness explained she interviewed the Appellant during the comprehensive assessment and took detailed notes about what was said. She stated she specifically asked about how the Appellant gets her meals on a daily basis and had to work to "pin her down" regarding answers. She asked if she was able to make toast for herself or cereal and was told she could. She asked if she could re-heat food and she said she could. She also asked if she does this more or less than 50 percent of the time and was told yes, in response to asking if she could do it at least 50 percent of the time.

This ALJ reviewed all the evidence of record. The testimony from the Department's worker about meal preparation was found credible by this ALJ. While being told by someone that they make their own meals 50 percent of the time is not the same thing as agreeing with or failing to dispute leading questions asked at interview by a worker, the need for the questions was apparent given that the Appellant was not forthcoming about meal preparation and the worker had a difficult time "pinning her down." While it certainly is not the purpose of a Department review consistent with the Department's mission statement to set a trap, as it were, people who participate in the programs do need to be forthcoming and provide reasonable, credible answers in response to direct questions. Here, the worker asked reasonable questions about reasonable meals that many people are able to prepare for themselves even if they have a need for assistance with more elaborate meals. She determined, after obtaining yes and no answers to her questions, that the Appellant is capable of preparing simple meals for herself and re-heating food and that she does it often. This, in combination with the information that the Appellant shares her home with 2 other individuals, resulted in a reduction to her meal preparation payment assistance. This is supported by policy for both reasons. It is reasonable to believe the Appellant is able to and does get herself toast or cereal for breakfast without physical assistance. This does not mean she is expected or required to only eat sandwiches, toast or cereal for every meal. It does support a functional rank of 3, which results in less than the full 25 hours of meal preparation allowed under policy for persons with no ability to participate in the task at all. Furthermore, the allocation of just over 7 hours per month is supported by the fact that the Appellant does not reside alone. The Department's reductions are justified by policy and reasonable in this case.

### **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 Home Help Services payment.

**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:



Date Mailed: 8/27/2010

**\*\*\* 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.