

**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. 2010-14794 PA  
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 \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ appeared on her own behalf. \_\_\_\_\_, Appeals Review Officer, represented the Department. \_\_\_\_\_, Medicaid Utilization Analyst, appeared as a witness for the Department.

**ISSUE**

Did the Department properly deny the Appellant's request for prior authorization for upper and lower partial dentures?

**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.
2. On \_\_\_\_\_, the Department received a prior authorization request for upper and lower partial dentures from the Appellant's dentist. (Exhibit 1, page 7)
3. On \_\_\_\_\_, the Department denied the request for upper and lower partial dentures. The Department determined that the Appellant did not qualify for the upper partial denture under the 5 year rule as the payment history indicates an upper partial denture was placed \_\_\_\_\_. The Department also determined that the Appellant did not qualify for the lower partial denture because she would have 8 posterior teeth in occlusion with the previously approved upper partial denture in place. (Exhibit 1, pages 7-8)

4. The Department sent the Appellant a Notification of Denial on [REDACTED]. (Exhibit 1, pages 5-6)
5. On [REDACTED] the Department received the Appellant's Request for a hearing. (Exhibit 1, page 3)

## **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.

### **1.10 PRIOR AUTHORIZATION**

Medicaid requires prior authorization (PA) to cover certain services before those services are rendered to the beneficiary. The purpose of PA is to review the medical need for certain services.

*MDCH Medicaid Provider Manual, Practitioner  
Section, October 1, 2005, page 4.*

The issue in this case is whether the Department properly applied the five year rule for denture coverage. *MDCH Medicaid Provider Manual, Dental Section, July 1, 2009, pages 17-19*, outlines coverage for dentures:

### **6.6 PROSTHODONTICS (REMOVABLE)**

#### **6.6.A. GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS**

Complete and partial dentures are benefits for all beneficiaries. All dentures require PA.

Providers must assess the beneficiary's general oral health and provide a five-year prognosis for the prosthesis requested. An upper partial denture PA request must also include the prognosis of six sound teeth.

Complete or partial dentures are authorized:

- If there is one or more anterior teeth missing;
- If there are less than eight posterior teeth in occlusion (fixed bridges and dentures are to be considered occluding teeth); or

- Where an existing complete or partial denture cannot be made serviceable through repair, relining, adjustment, or duplicating (rebasing) procedures.

If a partial denture can be made serviceable, the dentist should provide the needed restorations to maintain use of the existing partial, extract teeth, add teeth to an existing partial, and remove hyperplastic tissue.

Before final impressions are taken and any construction begun on a complete or partial denture, healing adequate to support a prosthesis must take place following the completion of extractions or surgical procedures. This includes the posterior ridges of any immediate denture. An exception is made for the six anterior teeth (cuspid to cuspid) only when an immediate denture is authorized.

Reimbursement for a complete or partial denture includes all necessary adjustments, relines, repairs, and duplications within six months of insertion. This includes such services for an immediate upper denture when authorized.

If a complete or partial denture requires an adjustment, reline, repair, or duplication within six months of insertion, but the services were not provided until after six months of insertion, no additional reimbursement is allowed for these services.

Complete or partial dentures are not authorized when:

- A previous prosthesis has been provided within five years, whether or not the existing denture was obtained through Medicaid.
- An adjustment, reline, repair, or duplication will make them serviceable.
- Replacement of a complete or partial denture that has been lost or broken beyond repair is not a benefit within five years, whether or not the existing denture was obtained through Medicaid.

#### **6.6.B. COMPLETE DENTURES**

Only complete dentures with noncharacterized teeth (i.e., without cosmetic enhancements, such as gold denture teeth) and acrylic resin bases are a benefit of Medicaid. To be covered by Medicaid, all of the following procedures must be used to fabricate the dentures:

- Individual positioning of the teeth;
- Waxup of the entire denture body; and
- Conventional laboratory processing.

A preformed denture with teeth already mounted (i.e., teeth already set in acrylic prior to initial impressions) forming a denture module is not a covered benefit. Overdentures or Cusil dentures are not a covered benefit.

#### **6.6.C. IMMEDIATE COMPLETE DENTURE**

An immediate complete denture is a benefit only when the immediate extractions involve only the anterior teeth, whether maxillary or mandibular. When requesting PA, the dentist must state on the request that the denture will be an immediate denture, which teeth will be extracted at the denture insertion visit, and the reason the immediate denture is needed.

For reasons of denture stability and retention, an immediate denture is not a benefit:

- For the posterior segments of the maxillary or mandibular arch.
- Where cast metal base saddle areas are to be provided.

#### **6.6.D. PARTIAL DENTURE**

Partial dentures are a covered benefit for all beneficiaries over age 16 with the following limitations:

- A one-piece cast metal partial denture is not a benefit.
- Elaborate appliance items, such as semi-precision or precision attachments, stress breakers, hinge saddle areas, or Kennedy (lingual) blankets are not benefits.

All clasps are included in the fee for the partial denture.

To ensure that eruption of the teeth is completed before a permanent appliance is placed, partial dentures are not a covered benefit for beneficiaries under age 16. To replace a lost anterior tooth on a patient under age 16, PA must be submitted for an interim partial denture.

### **6.6.E. INTERIM COMPLETE & PARTIAL DENTURES**

Interim complete dentures are authorized only in very unusual situations. For beneficiaries under the age of 16, interim partial dentures (sometimes called a "stayplate") to replace anterior teeth are authorized. The provider must submit justification and explanation of proposed future treatment with the PA request.


Medicaid Provider Manual, Dental Section,  
Version date July 1, 2009.

The Department introduced the Appellant's Medicaid beneficiary payment history into evidence showing that a metal partial upper denture was placed [REDACTED]. The report shows that the payment was sent to the Appellant's dentist on [REDACTED]. (Exhibit 1, page 8) The Department testified that the current prior authorization request for the upper partial denture was denied because of the five year rule, which prohibits authorization of a complete or partial denture when a previous prosthesis has been provided within five years, whether or not the existing denture was obtained through Medicaid. The denial of the lower partial denture is also at issue in this case. The Department testified and introduced evidence showing that the Appellant did not qualify for the lower partial denture because she would have at least 8 posterior teeth in occlusion with the previously authorized upper partial in place. (Exhibit 1, pages 7 and 10) The Department testified that the denial of the upper and lower partial dentures was in accordance with the policy outlined in the Dental Section of the Department's Medicaid Provider Manual.

The Appellant disagrees with the denial and testified that she never received the metal upper partial denture previously authorized by the Department. The Appellant explained that this prior authorization request was completed by her new dentist, and that the partial she previously received from her old dentist broke. The Appellant stated that her new dentist told her it was actually a flipper, and not an upper partial denture.

The Appellant's testimony is not supported by the evidence. On the current prior authorization request, the Appellant's dentist clearly indicated that an upper partial was previously placed in [REDACTED]. (Exhibit 1, page 7) Additionally, a copy of the previous prior authorization request was included which shows that the Appellant had the flipper in [REDACTED], before the metal upper partial placed in [REDACTED] was approved. (Exhibit 1, page 10)

While this ALJ has sympathy for the Appellant's circumstances, the program parameters do not allow for coverage for dentures more than 1 time in a 5 year period, or for replacement of a lost or broken prosthesis that is less than 5 years old. The Department's documentation shows that payment for an upper partial denture was made in [REDACTED], which is within the past 5 years. If in [REDACTED], the Appellant's prior dentist provided something other than the metal upper partial denture

  
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the Department approved and issued payment for, the Appellant should certainly report this to the proper authority, as this ALJ does not have jurisdiction over such matters.

The Department provided sufficient evidence that its denial was in accordance with policy. The denial of the upper partial denture is sustained as the evidence shows the Department did authorize and pay for an upper partial denture within the past 5 years. The denial of the lower partial is also sustained as the evidence shows that the Appellant would have at least 8 posterior teeth in occlusion with the previously authorized upper denture in place.

**DECISION AND ORDER**

The Administrative Law Judge, based on the above findings of fact and conclusions of law, decides that the Department properly denied the Appellant's request for prior authorization for upper and lower partial dentures.

**IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED** that:

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

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Colleen Lack  
Administrative Law Judge  
for Janet Olszewski, Director  
Michigan Department of Community Health

cc: 

Date Mailed: 3/30/2010

**\*\*\* 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.