

**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. 2010-28764 HHS  
Case ██████████

**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 on ██████████. The Appellant was present and represented himself. ██████████, the Appellant's chore provider, testified as the Appellant's witness. ██████████, Appeals Review Officer, represented the Department of Community Health (Department). ██████████, Adult Services Supervisor, testified as a witness for the Department.

**ISSUE**

Did the Department properly determine the Appellant's monthly Home Help Services (HHS) payment?

**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 recipient, who was determined eligible for HHS.
2. The Appellant has been diagnosed with cervical disc disease, diabetes, and high blood pressure. (Exhibit 1, page 13)
3. During an initial HHS assessment on ██████████, the Adult Services Worker determined that the Appellant needs assistance with bathing, dressing, transferring, medication, housework, laundry, shopping, and meal preparation. (Exhibit 1, pages 10, 12)
4. The worker ranked the Appellant at a level 3 for the tasks of bathing, dressing, transferring, medication, housework, and meal preparation. He

ranked the Appellant at a level for the tasks of laundry and shopping. (Exhibit 1, page 14)

5. The Appellant's monthly HHS payment was originally determined to be ██████████ for 22.26 hours of service. However, due to a rate increase effective ██████████, the Appellant's monthly payment was increased to ██████████ (Exhibit 1, pages 8-9, 12)
6. At the time of the initial assessment, the Appellant's household consisted of himself and his three children, ages 16, 13, and 10. However, at some point after the assessment and before the hearing, the Appellant's chore provider and her 11-year-old son moved in with the Appellant. (Exhibit 1, page 10; Testimony of Maddox).
7. On ██████████, the Department sent the Appellant a Services and Payment Approval Notice (Exhibit 1, pages 8-9).
8. On ██████████, the State Office of Administrative Hearings and Rules received a hearing request from the Appellant, protesting the Department's determination of the amount of the Appellant's monthly HHS payment.

## **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 health professional and may be provided by individuals or by private or public agencies.

### **Necessity For Service**

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

- Customer choice.
- A complete comprehensive assessment and determination of the customer's need for personal care services.
- Verification of the customer's medical need by a Medicaid enrolled medical professional. The customer is responsible for obtaining the medical certification of need. The Medicaid provider identification number must be entered on the form by the medical provider.

\* \* \*

Do **not** authorize HHS prior to the date of the medical professional signature on the FIA-54A.

*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.

*Adult Services Manual (ASM 363 9-1-2008), pages 14-15 of 24*

The Adult Services Manual also explains the initial comprehensive assessment process as follows:

**COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENT**

The Adult Services Comprehensive Assessment (FIA-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 client in his/her place of residence.
- An interview must be conducted with the caregiver, if applicable.
- Observe a copy of the client'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 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 client'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
- Light 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 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.

### 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
- 6 hours/month for light housework
- 7 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.

### **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 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.
- 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 same time period).

*Adult Services Manual (ASM 363 9-1-2008), pages 2-5 of 24*

After the initial assessment on [REDACTED], the Adult Services Worker (worker) determined that the Appellant needs assistance with the following tasks: bathing, dressing, transferring, medication, housework, laundry, shopping, and meal preparation. (Exhibit 1, pages 10, 12) Using the functional scale, his observations, and the information the Appellant provided at the time of the assessment, the worker ranked the Appellant at a level 3 for the tasks of bathing, dressing, transferring, medication, housework, and meal preparation. He ranked the Appellant at a level 4 for the tasks of laundry and shopping. (Exhibit 1, page 14)

The Appellant was approved for 22.26 hours of HHS services per month, which is broken down by time and task as follows: 43 minutes per month for bathing, 2 hours per month for dressing, 52 minutes per month for transferring, 1 hour per month for medications, 3 hours and 1 minute per month for housework, 3 hours and 1 minute per month for laundry, 1 hour and 4 minutes per month for shopping, and 10 hours and 45 minutes per month for meal preparation.

The Appellant is challenging the amount of his monthly HHS payments. He first states that his chore provider is providing more services to him than she is being paid for, and he asks that she be paid for those additional hours of service. However, it was explained to the Appellant, that the Department has authorized a certain number of hours that it will pay for, and that if his provider chooses to provide more hours than authorized, she will not be paid for them.

The Appellant also states that he needs more HHS hours. He asserts that he is suffering from additional medical conditions—fainting spells and bronchitis—which he believes support his need for additional HHS services. However, the Appellant failed to provide this ALJ with any medical documentation to support these additional medical conditions and they are not indicated on his medical needs form. But even if he had provided supporting documentation, those conditions would not warrant an increase in his HHS services.

The record evidence establishes that the worker followed policy and used the reasonable time schedule as a guide in determining the time that would be allocated for each task. There is no evidence that Appellant has any special needs that required a deviation from the reasonable time schedule set forth in Department policy. The Appellant does not dispute the information that the worker relied on to determine his ranks, and based on that information, the ranks assigned by the worker are reasonable.

Further, given the testimony that the Appellant's chore provider and her son are now living with the Appellant, it appears that the Appellant may actually be receiving more HHS services than he is entitled to.

**DECISION AND ORDER**

The Administrative Law Judge, based on the above findings of fact and conclusions of law, decides that the Department did properly determine the Appellant's HHS payment amount.

**IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED** that:

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

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Kristin M. Heyse  
Administrative Law Judge  
for Janet Olszewski, Director  
Michigan Department of Community Health

cc:



Date Mailed: 6/16/2010

**\*\*\* 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.