

STATE OF MICHIGAN
MICHIGAN ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING SYSTEM
ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS FOR THE
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

IN THE MATTER OF:



Reg. No.: 2011-11080
Issue No.: 2009
Case No.: [REDACTED]
Hearing Date: March 31, 2011
DHS County: St. Clair

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE: Jonathan W. Owens

HEARING DECISION

This matter is before the undersigned Administrative Law Judge pursuant to MCL 400.9 and MCL 400.37 upon Claimant's request for a hearing. After due notice, a hearing was held on March 31, 2011. Claimant appeared and testified.

ISSUE

Whether the Department of Human Services (DHS or Department) properly determined that Claimant is not "disabled" for purposes of the Medical Assistance (MA-P) program?

FINDINGS OF FACT

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

1. On August 16, 2010, Claimant applied for MA-P.
2. On September 15, 2010, the Medical Review Team denied Claimant's request.
3. On October 8, 2010, Claimant submitted to the Department a request for hearing.
4. The State Hearing and Review Team (SHRT) denied Claimant's request.
5. Claimant is 24 years old.
6. Claimant completed education through high school and some college.
7. Claimant has employment experience (last worked August 2010) as a welding fabricator.

8. Claimant suffers from left knee dislocation with vascular injury, brachial plexus injury of the left arm, subarachnoid hemorrhage, closed head injury, fracture of left arm including scapula and humerus and open ulna and radius fractures, left popliteal artery thrombosis and left retrobulbar hemorrhage.
9. Claimant's limitations have lasted for 12 months or more.
10. Claimant has significant limitations on physical activities involving sitting, standing, walking, bending, lifting, and stooping.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

MA-P is established by Title XIX of the Social Security Act and is implemented by Title 42 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR). The Department administers MA-P 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).

Pursuant to Federal Rule 42 CFR 435.540, the Department uses the Federal Supplemental Security Income (SSI) policy in determining eligibility for disability under MA-P. Under SSI, disability is defined as:

...the inability to do any substantial gainful activity by reason of any medically determinable physical or mental impairment which can be expected to result in death or which has lasted or can be expected to last for a continuous period of not less than 12 months.... 20 CFR 416.905.

A set order is used to determine disability. Current work activity, severity of impairments, residual functional capacity, past work, age, or education and work experience are reviewed. If there is a finding that an individual is disabled or not disabled at any point in the review, there will be no further evaluation. 20 CFR 416.920.

Medical evidence may contain medical opinions. Medical opinions are statements from physicians and psychologists or other acceptable medical sources that reflect judgments about the nature and severity of the impairment(s), including symptoms, diagnosis and prognosis, what an individual can do despite impairment(s), and the physical or mental restrictions. 20 CFR 416.927(a)(2).

The Administrative Law Judge is responsible for making the determination or decision about whether the statutory definition of disability is met. The Administrative Law Judge reviews all medical findings and other evidence that support a medical source's statement of disability. 20 CFR 416.927(e).

For mental disorders, severity is assessed in terms of the functional limitations imposed by the impairment. Functional limitations are assessed using the criteria in paragraph

(B) of the listings for mental disorders (descriptions of restrictions of activities of daily living, social functioning; concentration, persistence or pace; and ability to tolerate increased mental demands associated with competitive work). 20 CFR, Part 404, Subpart P, Appendix 1, 12.00(C).

Claimant testified to the following symptoms and abilities: left arm in constant pain, left gets stiff and sore when he either stands or sits with it, can't pick left foot up, limited movement of neck, movement in neck burning sensation, wears a sling for the left arm, can stand 10 minutes, can sit an hour, can walk 50 yards using a cane, was in a wheelchair until [REDACTED], left arm is paralyzed from shoulder down, left handed, unable to use the right hand to write, constant pain in the left knee, balance problems when attempting to bend over, not able to tie shoe laces, needs help with all household chores, not able to drive, and needs help with grocery shopping.

In this case, this Administrative Law Judge finds that Claimant may be considered presently disabled at the third step. The medical evidence submitted for consideration supports a finding of disability based upon a listing, specifically, Claimant's Exhibit A 1-3 and Department Exhibit 294. Claimant appears to meet listing 1.02 A or its equivalent. This Administrative Law Judge will not continue through the remaining steps of the assessment. Claimant's testimony and the medical documentation support the finding that Claimant meets the requirements of a listing.

Therefore, Claimant is found to be disabled.

DECISION AND ORDER

The Administrative Law Judge, based upon the above findings of fact and conclusions of law, decides that Claimant is medically disabled as of August 2010.

Accordingly, the Department's decision is hereby REVERSED and the Department is ORDERED to initiate a review of the application dated August 16, 2010, if not done previously, to determine Claimant's non-medical eligibility. The Department shall inform Claimant of the determination in writing. A review of this case shall be set for July 2012.



Jonathan W. Owens
Administrative Law Judge
for Maura Corrigan, Director
Department of Human Services

Date Signed: May 31, 2011

2011-11080/JWO

Date Mailed: May 31, 2011

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.

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.

JWO/pf

cc:

