

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

IN THE MATTER OF:

[REDACTED]

Reg. No: 2011-21251

Issue No: 2026

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Benzie County DHS

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE: Suzanne L. Morris

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 telephone hearing was held on [REDACTED]. The claimant appeared and provided testimony.

ISSUES

Did the department properly place the claimant on a MA deductible case?

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 claimant applied for MA on December 9, 2010. (Department Exhibit 1– 15)
2. The claimant has employment income from [REDACTED] and provided five weekly paycheck stubs to the department. (Department Exhibit 16 – 20)
3. The claimant currently receives child support for two children. (Department Exhibit 21 – 22)
4. The claimant's husband receives RSDI in the amount of [REDACTED] monthly. (Department Exhibit 23 – 25)
5. The claimant was mailed a Notice of Case Action (DHS-1605) informing her that she was approved for an MA monthly deductible of [REDACTED] (Department Exhibit 26)

6. The claimant submitted a hearing request on January 16, 2011.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

The Medical Assistance (MA) program 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 of Human Services (DHS or department) 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).

Department policy states:

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. BEM 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. BEM, 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. BAM 130 explains verification and timeliness standards. BEM, 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’s protected income level is \$475. The claimant’s household receives income from claimant’s employment, child support for two children and claimant’s husband’s RSDI. The claimant testified that the department is using the correct figures for each source of income. This results in a net income of \$1087. When

the protected income limit is subtracted from the net income, this results in a deductible of \$612, which was properly computed by the department.

It is noted that the claimant stated that her child support has been reduced and that it may well be reduced further. The claimant was advised that the department takes a 90 day average of the child support and that if it changes, she should inform the department and they can take a new 90 day average.

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 on a MA deductible case.

Accordingly, the department's determination is UPHELD. SO ORDERED.

_____/s/_____
Suzanne L. Morris
Administrative Law Judge
for Maura D. Corrigan, Director
Department of Human Services

Date Signed: 5/23/11

Date Mailed: 5/23/11

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.

SM/ds

