

STATE OF MICHIGAN
MICHIGAN ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING SYSTEM
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. 2011-26360 QHP
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 behalf of the Appellant who was present and testified.

██████████ represented ██████████. Her witness was ██████████.

ISSUE

Did the Medicaid Health Plan properly deny Appellant's request for a bunionectomy?

FINDINGS OF FACT

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

1. At the time of hearing, the Appellant is a ██████-year-old female Medicaid beneficiary.
2. The Appellant has been a member of the Respondent MHP since ██████.
3. The Appellant suffers from "bad arthritis in her foot... extreme pain with bone sticking out." [Testimony of Appellant] *But* see Respondent's Exhibit A, p. 8.
4. On ██████████, the Appellant's provider submitted her request for podiatry services to the MHP. (Respondent's Exhibit A, p. 2)

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5. On [REDACTED], the Appellant, through her provider, was advised on the denial of the request for services for failure to meet surgical criteria. Her appeal rights were contained therein. (Respondent's Exhibit A, pp. 2-5)
6. The instant appeal for the MHP denial of podiatric service was received by the Michigan Administrative Hearings System (MAHS) for the Department of Community Health on [REDACTED]. (Appellant's Exhibit #1)

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.

On May 30, 1997, the Department received approval from the Health Care Financing Administration, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, allowing Michigan to restrict Medicaid beneficiaries' choice to obtain medical services only from specified Medicaid Health Plans.

The Respondent is one of those Medicaid Health Plans.

The covered services that the Contractor has available for enrollees must include, at a minimum, the covered services listed below. The Contractor may limit services to those which are medically necessary and appropriate, and which conform to professionally accepted standards of care. The Contractor must operate consistent with all applicable Medicaid provider manuals and publications for coverages and limitations. If new services are added to the Michigan Medicaid Program, or if services are expanded, eliminated, or otherwise changed, the Contractor must implement the changes consistent with State direction in accordance with the provisions of Contract Section 2.024.

Although the Contractor must provide the full range of covered services listed below they may choose to provide services over and above those specified. The covered services provided to enrollees under this Contract include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Ambulance and other emergency medical transportation
- Blood lead testing in accordance with Medicaid Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment (EPSDT) policy

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- Certified nurse midwife services
- Certified pediatric and family nurse practitioner services
- Chiropractic services
- Diagnostic lab, x-ray and other imaging services
- Durable medical equipment (DME) and supplies
- Emergency services
- End Stage Renal Disease services
- Family planning services (e.g., examination, sterilization procedures, limited infertility screening, and diagnosis)
- Health education
- Hearing and speech services
- Hearing aids
- Home Health services
- Hospice services (if requested by the enrollee)
- Immunizations
- Inpatient and outpatient hospital services
- Intermittent or short-term restorative or rehabilitative services (in a nursing facility), up to 45 days
- Restorative or rehabilitative services (in a place of service other than a nursing facility)
- Medically necessary weight reduction services
- Mental health care – maximum of 20 outpatient visits per calendar year
- Out-of-state services authorized by the Contractor
- Outreach for included services, especially pregnancy-related and Well child care
- Parenting and birthing classes
- Pharmacy services
- Podiatry services
- Practitioners' services (such as those provided by physicians, optometrists and dentists enrolled as a Medicaid Provider Type 10)
- Prosthetics and orthotics
- Tobacco cessation treatment including pharmaceutical and behavioral support
- Therapies (speech, language, physical, occupational) excluding services provided to persons with development disabilities which are billed through Community Mental Health Services Program (CMHSP) providers or Intermediate School Districts.
- Transplant services
- Transportation for medically necessary covered services

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- Treatment for sexually transmitted disease (STD)
- Vision services
- Well child/EPSTD for persons under age 21

Article 1.020 Scope of [Services], at §1.022 E (1) contract, 2010, p. 22.

* * *

At hearing the Appellant's representative alleged that the Appellant suffered greatly and had a bone sticking out of her foot. The Appellant testified that she had arthritis in both feet.

The Respondent's witness, ██████████, testified that the requested "bunionectomy" was denied for failure to meet surgical criteria on x ray. He added that the MHP sent the Appellant a package of material with questions for the surgeon in addition to the hearing summary. The MHP representative had a signed receipt showing effective service. The Appellant acknowledged receipt but said they took the entire package to their doctor – and neglected to retain a copy for hearing today.

With regard to podiatry services for a bunionectomy the Appellant failed to preponderate that the MHP erred in denying the request for surgery or that the Appellant in fact satisfied diagnostic criteria on x ray.

The MHP denial, based on the information presented for hearing today, was appropriate. If the Appellant has other data or new information previously not available to the medical reviewers at ██████████ on ██████████, they should contact the MHP for reassessment.

DECISION AND ORDER

The Administrative Law Judge, based on the above findings of fact and conclusions of law, decides that the MHP properly denied surgical podiatric services.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that:

The Medicaid Health Plan's decision is **AFFIRMED**.

Dale Malewska
Administrative Law Judge
for Olga Dazzo, Director
Michigan Department of Community Health

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cc:



Date Mailed: 6/15/2011

***** NOTICE *****

The Michigan Administrative Hearing System 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 Michigan Administrative Hearing System 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.