

**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:

Docket No. 2011-43209 PA  
Case No. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED],

Appellant

\_\_\_\_\_ /

**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 [REDACTED], friend, appeared on behalf of the Appellant. [REDACTED], the Appellant, appeared and testified. [REDACTED], Appeals Review Officer, represented the Department. [REDACTED] Dental Section Manager, appeared as a witness for the Department.

**ISSUE**

Did the Department properly deny the Appellant's request for prior authorization for complete upper and lower 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 [REDACTED], the Department received a prior authorization request for complete upper and lower dentures from the Appellant's dentist. (Exhibit 1, page 4)
3. On [REDACTED], the Department determined that the Appellant did not qualify for the complete dentures under the 5 year rule. The Appellant's case history indicated that complete upper and lower dentures were placed [REDACTED] (Exhibit 1, pages 4 and 7)
4. On [REDACTED], the Department sent a Notification of Denial to the Appellant. (Exhibit 1, pages 5-6)
5. On [REDACTED], the Appellant's Request for Hearing was received. (Exhibit 1, pages 2-3)

## **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, July 1, 2011, 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, 2011, pages 17-18*, 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.

Medicaid Provider Manual, Dental Section,  
Version date July 1, 2011  
Pages 17-18.  
(emphasis added by ALJ)

The Department introduced documentation from the Appellant's Medicaid beneficiary case history into evidence showing that complete upper and lower dentures were placed ██████████. (Exhibit 1, page 7) The Dental Section Manager explained that the Appellant's ██████████, prior authorization request for complete upper and lower dentures was denied because the Appellant had these prostheses provided within the past five years. The Dental Section Manager testified that the denial was in accordance with the policy outlined in the Dental Section of the Department's Medicaid Provider Manual. (Dental Section Manager Testimony)

The Appellant disagrees with the denial and testified that the existing complete dentures have never fit correctly, despite multiple visits over the course of a year to that dentist for fittings. The Appellant stated that other medical issues arose that took priority over the fit of her dentures, during which time the dentist who provided the existing complete dentures closed. The Appellant explained that there are problems with pieces of bone for which surgery is needed, the existing upper complete denture is a half inch away from the roof of her mouth when inserted, and she gets sores if she wears the existing lower complete denture. (Appellant Testimony and Exhibit 1, pages 2-3)

While this ALJ has sympathy for the Appellant's circumstances, the program parameters do not allow for coverage for dentures more than one time in a five year period. The prior authorization form incorrectly indicates that the existing complete dentures were placed ██████████. (Exhibit 1, page 4) The Appellant's Medicaid case history documents that complete upper and lower dentures were placed ██████████. (Exhibit 1, page 7) The Appellant's dentist noted that relines would not be sufficient and a pertinent medical history of hypertension, but did not document the issues with a need for surgery due to pieces of bone, any description of the fit issues with the existing complete dentures or problems with sores when the existing complete dentures are worn. (Exhibit 1, page 4) The Department provided sufficient evidence that its denial was in accordance with policy based on the information available at the time the ██████████, prior authorization request was reviewed. The Department's determination is upheld based on the submitted information.

However, the Appellant's dentist can always submit a new prior authorization request with documentation supporting the medical necessity of replacing the existing complete upper and lower dentures prior to ██████████.

### **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 complete upper and lower dentures based on the submitted information.

**IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED** that:

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

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Colleen Lack  
Administrative Law Judge  
for Olga Dazzo, Director  
Michigan Department of Community Health

[REDACTED]  
Docket No. 2011-43209 PA  
Decision and Order

cc:

[REDACTED]

Date Mailed: 10/7/2011

**\*\*\* 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.