

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

IN THE MATTER OF:

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Reg. No. 2011-12610
Issue No. 2009
Case No. [REDACTED]
Hearing Date: June 2, 2011
Lapeer County DHS

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE: William A. Sundquist

HEARING DECISION

This matter is before the undersigned Administrative Law Judge pursuant to MCL 400.9 and MCL 400.37 upon the claimant's request for a hearing. After due notice, a telephone hearing was held on June 2, 2011.

Medical reports (Claimant Exhibit A) submitted after the hearing for a second SHRT review delayed the D&O below.

ISSUE

Has the claimant not been engaged in substantial gainful work since March 2007 been established?

FINDINGS OF FACT

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

1. Claimant, absent from the hearing, ended his last employment in March 2007.
2. There was no evidence presented whether or not the claimant was employed after March 2007.
3. Claimant alleges that he became unable to do any past work or any other work due to pain, arthritis, bulging discs, muscle pain, shortness of breath, and history of myocardial infarction, cellulitis, syringomyelia and liver, stomach and colon problems.
4. On August 23, 2010, the claimant applied for Medicaid, was denied on August 27, 2010, and requested a hearing on December 16, 2010.

5. Claimant's vocational factors are: age 44, 12th grade education and past work history as a sedentary clerk and surveyor.
6. Medical exam on March 16, 2010 states the claimant neurologically has no motor or sensory deficit; that there was impaired sensation in the right lower extremity with depressed reflexes and slight weakness; and that all the joints in both upper and lower extremities are normal except the left shoulder, right hip, both knees as well as left ankle; that fine and gross dexterity in both upper extremities and the grip in both hands were normal; and that stance, posture were normal; that claimant was not using any ambulatory aids; that claimant was unable to squat and unable to walk on heels and toes; and that he was finding it difficult to get on and off the table (Medical Packet, pages 24 and 25).
7. Medical exam on October 26, 2010 states the claimant's cervical and lumbar spine, shoulders, elbows, hips, knees, ankles, wrists, hands, fingers were in a normal range of motion; that he was able to sit, stand, bend, stoop, carry, push, pull, button clothes, tie shoes, dress, undress, dial telephone, open door, make a fist, pick up coin, pick up pencil, write, get on and off examination table, climb stairs; that he was able to walk in tandem; that gait was stable and within normal limits; and that his grip strength was normal (Medical Packet, pages 26 to 29).
8. SHRT report dated February 8, 2011 states the claimant's impairments do not meet/equal a Social Security Listing (Medical Packet, page 54).

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 Bridges Reference Manual (BRM).

Facts above are undisputed.

"Disability" is:

...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 is 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.

When determining disability, the federal regulations require that several considerations be analyzed in sequential order. If disability can be ruled out at any step, analysis of the next step is not required. These steps are:

1. Does the client perform Substantial Gainful Activity (SGA)? If yes, the client is ineligible for MA. If no, the analysis continues to Step 2. 20 CFR 416.920(b).
2. Does the client have a severe impairment that has lasted or is expected to last 12 months or more or result in death? If no, the client is ineligible for MA. If yes, the analysis continues to Step 3. 20 CFR 416.920(c).
3. Does the impairment appear on a special listing of impairments or are the client's symptoms, signs, and laboratory findings at least equivalent in severity to the set of medical findings specified for the listed impairment? If no, the analysis continues to Step 4. If yes, MA is approved. 20 CFR 416.290(d).
4. Can the client do the former work that he/she performed within the last 15 years? If yes, the client is ineligible for MA. If no, the analysis continues to Step 5. 20 CFR 416.920(e).
5. Does the client have the Residual Functional Capacity (RFC) to perform other work according to the guidelines set forth at 20 CFR 404, Subpart P, Appendix 2, Sections 200.00-204.00? If yes, the analysis ends and the client is ineligible for MA. If no, MA is approved. 20 CFR 416.920(f).

At Step 1, the evidence of record does not establish that the claimant has not been engaged in substantial gainful activity since March 2007 because he did not appear at the hearing for his testimony. Therefore, disability is denied at this step.

If disability had not already been denied at Step 1, it would be denied at Step 2.

At Step 2, the objective medical evidence of record does not establish that the claimant is significantly limited in performing basic physical work activities, as defined below, for the required duration stated below for one continuous year.

...If you do not have any impairment or combination of impairments which significantly limits your physical or mental ability to do basic work activities, we will find that you do not have a severe impairment and are, therefore, not disabled. We will not consider your age, education, and work experience. 20 CFR 416.920(c).

...[The impairment]...must have lasted or must be expected to last for a continuous period of at least 12 months. We call this the duration requirement. 20 CFR 416.909.

Non-severe impairment(s). An impairment or combination of impairments is not severe if it does not significantly limit your physical or mental ability to do basic work activities. 20 CFR 416.921(a).

Basic work activities. When we talk about basic work activities, we mean the abilities and aptitudes necessary to do most jobs. Examples of these include --

- (1) Physical functions such as walking, standing, sitting, lifting, pushing, pulling, reaching, carrying, or handling;
- (2) Capacities for seeing, hearing, and speaking;
- (3) Understanding, carrying out, and remembering simple instructions;
- (4) Use of judgment;
- (5) Responding appropriately to supervision, co-workers and usual work situations; and
- (6) Dealing with changes in a routine work setting.
20 CFR 416.921(b).

The claimant has the burden of proof to establish that he has a severely restricted physical impairment that has lasted or can be expected to last for the duration of at least 12 months. There is insufficient objective medical evidence in the record that claimant suffers a severely restricted physical impairment for the required duration. Therefore, disability is denied at Step 2.

If claimant had not been denied at Steps 1 and 2, the analysis would proceed to Step 3 where the medical evidence of claimant's condition does not give rise to the finding that he would meet a statutory listing in the Code of Federal Regulations. In order to qualify as disabled, a severe physical impairment for the required duration has to be established under Step 2.

The claimant offered no evidence by a treating, examining, or non-treating physician addressing any Social Security Listing. To the contrary, the SHRT medical consultant addressed the issue and found no disability under Step 3.

If claimant had not already been denied disability at Steps 1 and 2, he would have to be denied again at Step 4 based upon his ability to perform his past work, despite his impairments. There is no evidence upon which this ALJ could base a finding that claimant is unable to perform work in which he has engaged in the past for the required one year duration. Therefore, disability would be denied again at Step 4.

The ALJ will continue to proceed through the sequential evaluation process to determine whether or not claimant has a residual functional capacity to perform some other less strenuous tasks than in his prior jobs.

If claimant had not already been denied at Steps 1, 2 and 4, he would be denied again at Step 5. At Step 5, the objective medical evidence of record does not establish that claimant is without a residual functional capacity for a required duration for other work in the national economy.

...Your residual functional capacity is what you can still do despite limitations. If you have more than one impairment, we will consider all of your impairment(s) of which we are aware. We will consider your ability to meet certain demands of jobs, such as physical demands, mental demands, sensory requirements, and other functions, as described in paragraphs (b), (c) and (d) of this section. Residual functional capacity is an assessment based on all of the relevant evidence.... 20 CFR 416.945(a).

...To determine the physical exertion requirements of work in the national economy, we classify jobs as sedentary, light, medium, heavy, and very heavy. These terms have the same meaning as they have in the Dictionary of Occupational Titles, published by the Department of Labor.... 20 CFR 416.967.

Sedentary work. Sedentary work involves lifting no more than 10 pounds at a time and occasionally lifting or carrying articles like docket files, ledgers, and small tools. Although a sedentary job is defined as one which involves sitting, a certain amount of walking and standing is often necessary in carrying out job duties. Jobs are sedentary if walking and standing are required occasionally and other sedentary criteria are met. 20 CFR 416.967(a).

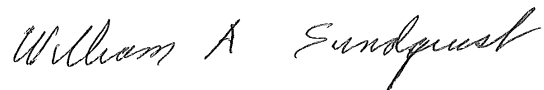
Claimant has submitted insufficient objective medical evidence that he lacks a residual functional capacity to perform some other less strenuous tasks than in his prior employment or that he is physically unable to do sedentary tasks, as defined above, if demanded of him even with his impairments. Claimant has failed to provide the necessary objective medical evidence to establish that he has a severe physical impairment or combination of impairments which prevent him from performing any level of work for a period of 12 months. Therefore, disability is denied at Steps 1, 2, 4, and 5.

Therefore, the claimant has not established disability, as defined above, by the necessary competent, material, and substantial evidence on the whole record.

DECISION AND ORDER

The Administrative Law Judge, based upon the above findings of fact and conclusions of law, decides that disability was not medically established.

Accordingly, Medicaid denial is UPHOLD.



William A. Sundquist
Administrative Law Judge
For Maura D. Corrigan, Director
Department of Human Services

Date Signed: October 31, 2011

Date Mailed: October 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.

WAS/tg

2011-12610/WAS

cc:

