

**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. 2011-27519 PA
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 ██████████. ██████████ appeared on her own behalf. ██████████ for the Department of Community Health represented the Department. ██████████, appeared as a witness for the Department.

ISSUE

Did the Department properly deny Appellant's request for prior authorization?

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. The Department received a prior authorization request for upper and lower partial dentures from the Appellant's dentist. (uncontested)
3. The Department approved the upper partial denture and denied the prior authorization request for the lower partial denture. (uncontested)
4. The Department determined that once the Appellant is provided with the upper partial denture that had been approved, she will have at least 8

posterior teeth in occlusion. (Exhibit A)

5. The Department sent the Appellant a Notification of Denial for the lower partial denture. (Exhibit A,).
6. On [REDACTED], the Department received Appellant's Request for a hearing.

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.

The issue in this case is whether the Department properly denied Appellant's request for prior authorization. The *MDCH Medicaid Provider Manual, Dental Section, October 1, 2005, page 16*, outlines coverage for partial dentures:

Complete or partial dentures are authorized when:

- If there are less than eight posterior teeth in occlusion.
- 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. (Exhibit 1, Page 8).

The Department introduced evidence that once Appellant has the upper partial denture placed, she will have at least eight posterior teeth in occlusion. The Department stated that it was for this reason the authorization request for the lower partial denture was denied. The Department's determination is supported by the policy outlined in the Dental Section of the Department's Medicaid Provider Manual.

The Appellant did not dispute the material evidence provided by the Department. She testified she was confused by the Notice indicating she had dentures placed within the past five years when she had never received dentures. She further testified her appearance is affected by her lack of teeth and it is very important to the type of career she is pursuing, which is office work. She stated appearance comprises 70 percent of ability to obtain the job.

The Department witness stated the Notice did have incorrect verbage stating she had been

[REDACTED]
Docket No. 2011-27519 PA
Decision and Order

denied because of prior placement of a denture within the last five years. She stated the citation in the Notice was correct and it was not the actual reason for denial. Her testimony indicated policy still supports the denial based upon correct citation of the policy and the uncontested fact that the Appellant will have eight posterior teeth in occlusion once the approved upper denture is placed.

DECISION AND ORDER

The Administrative Law Judge, based on the above findings of fact and conclusions of law, finds that the Department properly denied Appellant's request for prior authorization for a lower partial denture.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that:

The Department's decision is AFFIRMED.

Jennifer Isiogu
Administrative Law Judge
for Olga Dazzo, Director
Michigan Department of Community Health

cc: [REDACTED]

Date Mailed: 5/18/2011

***** NOTICE *****

The Michigan Administrative Hearing System for the Department of Community Health 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 for the Department of Community Health 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.