

**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. 2011-35793 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 behalf of the Appellant. ██████████ 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 lower partial dentures and complete upper dentures from the Appellant's dentist. (uncontested)
3. The Department approved the lower partial denture and denied the prior authorization request for the complete upper denture. (uncontested)
4. The Department determined that the Appellant had been provided with an upper partial denture within five years of the prior authorization request submitted ██████████. (Exhibit A)

5. The Department sent the Appellant a Notification of Approval for the lower partial denture and Denial of the upper complete 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.

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, January 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, January 1, 2011, pages 17-19*, outlines coverage for dentures as follows:

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 (rebasings) 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.

6.6.B. COMPLETE DENTURES

Only complete dentures with noncharacterized teeth (i.e., without cosmetic enhancements, such as gold denture teeth) and acrylic resin bases are a benefit of Medicaid. To be covered by Medicaid, all of the following procedures must be used to fabricate the dentures:

- Individual positioning of the teeth;
- Waxup of the entire denture body; and
- Conventional laboratory processing.

A preformed denture with teeth already mounted (i.e., teeth already set in acrylic prior to initial impressions) forming a denture module is not a covered benefit. Overdentures or Cusil dentures are not a covered benefit.

6.6.C. IMMEDIATE COMPLETE DENTURE

An immediate complete denture is a benefit only when the immediate extractions involve only the anterior teeth, whether maxillary or mandibular. When requesting PA, the dentist must state on the request that the denture will be an immediate denture, which teeth will be extracted at the denture insertion visit, and the reason the immediate denture is needed.

For reasons of denture stability and retention, an immediate denture is not a benefit:

- For the posterior segments of the maxillary or mandibular arch.
- Where cast metal base saddle areas are to be provided.

6.6.D. PARTIAL DENTURE

Partial dentures are a covered benefit for all beneficiaries over age 16 with the following limitations:

- A one-piece cast metal partial denture is not a benefit.
- Elaborate appliance items, such as semi-precision or precision attachments, stress breakers, hinge saddle areas, or Kennedy (lingual) blankets are not benefits.

All clasps are included in the fee for the partial denture.

To ensure that eruption of the teeth is completed before a permanent appliance is placed, partial dentures are not a covered benefit for beneficiaries under age 16. To replace a lost anterior tooth on a patient under age 16, PA must be submitted for an interim partial denture.

6.6.E. INTERIM COMPLETE & PARTIAL DENTURES

Interim complete dentures are authorized only in very unusual situations. For beneficiaries under the age of 16, interim partial

dentures (sometimes called a "stayplate") to replace anterior teeth are authorized. The provider must submit justification and explanation of proposed future treatment with the PA request.

*MDCH Medicaid Provider Manual, Dental
Section, January 1, 2011, pages 17-19*

The Department introduced the Appellant's Medicaid beneficiary payment history into evidence showing that an upper partial denture was placed ██████████. The report shows that the payment was sent to the Appellant's dentist for this placement. The Department testified that the prior-authorization request at issue in this case was denied in accordance with the policy outlined in the Dental Section of the Department's Medicaid Provider Manual because the Appellant had a prostheses provided within the past five years.


The Appellant does not dispute that he received an upper partial denture in ██████████. However, the Appellant's representative stated that the dentist told her and indicated on the request for prior authorization that his upper teeth were "hopeless" or in other words, "no good" and therefore all need to be pulled. As a result of needing all his teeth pulled, the Appellant is unable to ingest anything but soft foods. The Appellant's representative asserts he requires the complete upper denture as a result of having no ability to eat food other than soft foods and Ensure.

While this Administrative Law Judge has sympathy for the Appellant's circumstances, policy does not allow for coverage of dentures more than one time in a five-year period. In the case of requesting an exception to the five year rule, the Appellant's representative was informed that medical necessity had been inadequately addressed by the dentist on the prior authorization request but could be documented by a physician in a detailed statement indicating the medical basis of need for denture placement in order to address a specific treatment the Appellant was undergoing. This ALJ concurs the request for prior authorization submitted does not provide a medical basis to approve an exception to the 5 year rule as it states merely his upper teeth are "hopeless." Unfortunately, this cannot be used as sufficient proof of medical necessity such that a policy exception could be approved. Accordingly, the Department's denial in this case was proper.

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 of an upper complete denture.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that:


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The Department's decision is AFFIRMED.

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

cc:



Date Mailed: 7/21/2011

***** 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.

