

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

IN THE MATTER OF:

[REDACTED]

Reg. No: 201147002
Issue No: 2009
Case No: [REDACTED]
Hearing Date: November 23, 2011
Jackson 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, an in-person hearing was held on Wednesday, November 23, 2011. Claimant appeared with his authorized representative, [REDACTED]

Medical reports (Claimant's Exhibit A, B and C) submitted after the hearing for a second SHRT review delayed the decision and order below.

ISSUE

Was disability, as defined below, medically 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. On January 20, 2011, claimant applied for MA-P (and 3 months retro), was denied on May 11, 2011 per BEM 260, and requested a hearing on August 4, 2011.
2. On date of application claimant was age 49, had a GED, and past work experience as a sedentary semi-skilled truck driver.
3. On June 18, 2010, claimant ended his last job.
4. Claimant alleges disability due to the following medical diagnosed disorders: blood clots, breathing problems, arthritis, hypertension, heart problems, and memory disorder.

5. Medical exam on August 16, 2010, states the claimant is well-nourished and able to communicate; that he ambulates with aides; that he has decreased range of motion of left shoulder; that he has negative instability of the shoulders; that strength of the shoulder is 3+-4/5 for the left shoulder; that he can do rapid alternating movements of finger to nose; that he is alert and oriented x3; and that mood and affect are relaxed (Medical Packet, Pages 56 and 57).
6. Medical exam on December 15, 2010, states the claimant is in no acute distress; that cardiac reveals normal S1, S2; that he has regular rate without appreciable murmur; that lungs are clear to auscultation bilaterally without wheeze, rale, or rhonchi; that he does have pain and diminished range of motion of his left shoulder; that neurologically cranial nerves II-XII are grossly intact; that there is no obvious motor or sensory deficits appreciated; that psychologically he has an appropriate affect (Medical Packet, Page 52).
7. Medical exam on May 2, 2011, states the claimant is well-nourished and able to communicate; that he can ambulate without assistive devices; that he has decreased range of motion of the left shoulder but improving compared to previous exams; that he has minimal palpatory tenderness of the left shoulder; that he has negative instability of the shoulders; that strength of the shoulder is 3+-4/5 for the left shoulder and 4+/5 for the right shoulder; that neurologically his sensation is intact to light touch and pinch; that he can do rapid alternating movements of fingers to nose; and that he is alert and oriented x3 (Claimant's Exhibit B, Pages 5 & 6).
8. Medical exam on May 2, 2011, states the claimant's pulmonary artery and their branches shows no evidence of filling defects to suggest emboli; and that there is no significant mediastinal, hilar or axillary lymphadenopathy (Claimant's Exhibit A, Page 28).
9. Medical exam on May 3, 2011, states the claimant is clear to auscultation; that heart is normal and rhythm is regular without murmurs or extra sounds (Claimant's Exhibit A, Page 32).
10. Medical exam on May 3, 2011, states neurologically the claimant is negative for a history of stroke, seizure, neurologic deficit; that cardiac is negative for myocardial infarction, and hypertension; and that he is negative for chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (Claimant's Exhibit A, Page 50).
11. Medical exam on May 4, 2011, states the claimant is a young male in no acute distress; that his heart is normal for S1, S2; that bilaterally his lungs equal breath sounds; that neurologically he is alert, awake, and oriented x3 (Claimant's Exhibit A, Page 34).

12. Medical exam on August 1, 2011, states the claimant's GAF score of 55-60 (Medical Packet, Page 172).
13. SHRT report dated September 7, 2011, states the claimant's impairments do not meet/equal a social security listing (Medical Packet, Page 173).

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 Program Administrative Manual (BAM), the Program Eligibility Manual (BEM) and the Program Reference Manual (PRM).

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.

...We follow a set order to determine whether you are disabled. We review any current work activity, the severity of your impairment(s), your residual functional capacity, your past work, and your age, education and work experience. If we can find that you are disabled or not disabled at any point in the review, we do not review your claim further.... 20 CFR 416.920.

The burden of proof is on the claimant to establish disability in accordance with the 5 step process below. ...20 CFR 460.920(a).

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, disability is not denied. Claimant has not been engaged in substantial gainful work since June 18, 2010.

At Step 2, disability is denied. The medical evidence of record, on date of application, does not establish that the claimant's significant inability to perform basic mental/physical work activities for the required one year **continuous** duration, as defined below.

Severe/Non-Severe Impairment

...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).

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 question is whether the claimant's medically diagnosed disorders and disabling complaints, on date of application, significantly limit his ability to perform basic work activities, as defined above. Said in another way, do the diagnosed disorders impair the claimant slightly, mildly, moderately (non-severe) or severely, as defined above?

The medical evidence of record in August 2011 states the claimant's GAF score of 55-60. 51 to 60 is considered a person with a non-severe mental impairment. DSM IV (4th edition-revised).

Most of the medical reports of record are examination, diagnostic and treatment reports. These reports do not provide medical assessments of claimant's mental/physical work limitations/restrictions relative to performing basic work activities, as defined above.

Duration of Impairment

...[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.

The medical evidence of record, on date of application, does not establish a severe mental/physical impairment that has lasted or was expected to last for a one year **continuous** duration.

Therefore, disability is denied at Step 2.

If disability had not been denied at Step 2, the analysis would proceed to Step 3 where the medical evidence of record does not establish a severe impairment meeting/equaling a social security listing for the required duration. The listing of impairments describes, for each of the major body systems, impairments which are considered severe enough to prevent a person from doing any gainful activity. Most of the listed impairments are permanent or expected in result in death, or specific statement of duration is made. For all others, the evidence must show a one year continuous duration. 20 CFR 460.925(a).

Claimant introduced no medical evidence of record by a treating, examining or non-examining physician addressing a social security listing(s). To the contrary, the SHRT medical consultant addressed the matter and found insufficient medical evidence of disability under a social security listing.

If disability had not already been denied at Step 2, it would be denied at Step 4 where the medical evidence of record, on date of application, does not establish the claimant's inability, despite his impairments, to perform any of his past work for the required one year **continuous** duration.

If disability had not already been denied at Step 2, it would be denied again at Step 5 where the medical evidence of record, on date of application, does not establish the claimant was without a residual functional capacity (RFC), despite his impairments, to perform any other work in the national economy for the required one year continuous duration.

...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).

The medical evidence of record, on date of application, does not establish that the claimant was without a RFC for less strenuous work than his past work, such as sedentary work, as defined above. Under the medical-vocational guidelines, a younger individual, age 49, with a GED, and semi-skilled work history who is limited to sedentary work is not considered disabled.

Therefore, disability has not been established at Step 2 and also Steps 4 and 5, as defined above, by the 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 **UPHELD**.

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

Date Signed: April 2, 2012

Date Mailed: April 2, 2012

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.

201147002/WAS

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/tb

cc:

