

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

**IN THE MATTER OF:**

**[REDACTED]**

Reg. No: 201236259  
Issue No: 2009  
Case No: [REDACTED]  
Hearing Date: May 3, 2012  
Cheboygan 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 Thursday, May 3, 2012. Claimant appeared with his authorized representative, [REDACTED]. Participants on behalf of the Department of Human Services (Department) included [REDACTED].

The record was extended 90 day for a 2<sup>nd</sup> SHRT review of medical reports introduced at the hearing (Claimant Exhibit A).

**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. Claimant's MA-P (3 months retro) application on December 29, 2011 was denied on February 23, 2012 per BEM 260, with a hearing request on February 27, 2012.
2. Vocational factors: Age 41, with high school or more education, and history of skilled work.
3. Last employment ended March 2010; [REDACTED] started and ended March 2011.
4. Disability is alleged due to a dissected aorta (DHS Exhibit A, Page 151).

5. Medical reports of record state the Claimant on:
  - a. December 26, 2011, is alert, oriented x3 and in moderate distress; that he appeared to be mildly anxious but does not appear to be depressed (DHS Exhibit A, Page 89).
  - b. February 24, 2012, cannot do any heavy lifting secondary to his aorta dissection; that he does have occasional light headiness and this could be secondary to over treatment with medications; that he continues to have some chest pains and pressure and we think this is secondary to the healing process (DHS Exhibit A, Page 143).
  - c. March 29, 2012, was advised not to lift anything heavier than a gallon of milk in each arm due to his residual dissection; that there is a strong likelihood of being unable to obtain consistent work secondary to his physical disability from this life-threatening operation and surgery for at least the next 12 months; that he should refrain from any heavy lifting such as he was performing prior to his life-threatening complication (Claimant Exhibit A, Page 3).

### **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 416.912(a).

When determining disability, the federal regulations are used as a guideline and 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. The evidence of record established the Claimant has not been engaged in substantial gainful activities since March 2010.

At Step 2, disability is denied. The medical evidence of record, on date of application, does not establish the Claimant's significant functional incapacity to perform basic work activities for a 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).

### **SEVERE IMPAIRMENT**

To qualify for MA-P, claimant must first satisfy both the gainful work and the duration criteria (20 CFR 416.920(a)) before further review under severity criteria. If claimant does not have any impairment or combination of impairments which significantly limits physical or mental ability to do basic work activities, an ultimately favorable disability determination cannot result. (20 CFR 416.920(c)).

Whether an individual has one or a combination of medical impairments, the non-severe or severe impairment determination is the same. The medical evidence of record must establish, on date of application, a significant functional incapacity to perform basic work activities for the required duration.

In this case, the medical reports of record are mostly examination, diagnostic, treatments reports. They do not provide medical assessments of Claimant's physical limitations relative to his functional incapacity to perform basic work activities, as

defined above. ...20 CFR 416.913(c)(1) and (2). Stated differently, does the physical impairment medically impair the Claimant slightly, mildly, moderately (non-severe impairment, as defined above) or severely, as defined above?

The medical evidence of record does not establish a severe physical impairment meeting the one year continuous duration requirement. It established a non-severe impairment.

In determining disability under the law, the ability to work is measured. An individual's functional capacity for doing basic work activities is evaluated. If an individual has the ability to perform basic work activities without significant limitations, he is not considered disabled. ...20 CFR 416.994(b)(1)(IV).

If disability had not already been denied at Step 2, it would also be denied at Step 3. The medical evidence of record, on date of application, does not establish the Claimant's impairment meets/equals 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 activities. Most of the listed impairments are permanent or expected to result in death, or a specific statement of duration is made for all others, the evidence must show a one year continuous duration. ...20 CFR 416.925(a).

Claimant introduced no medical evidence of record by a treating, examining, or non-examining physician that Claimant's impairments do meet the requirements of any Social Security listing.

If disability had not already been denied at Step 2, it would not be denied at Step 4. The medical evidence of record, on date of application, established the Claimant's functional incapacity, to perform his past heavy work for the required one year continuous duration.

If disability had not already been denied at Step 2, it would also be denied at Step 5. 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 41, with a high school or more education, and skilled work history who is limited to sedentary work is not considered disabled.

Therefore, disability has not been established at Step 2 and also would not be established at Steps 3 and 5 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, MA-P denial is **UPHELD**, and SO ORDERED.

/s/

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

Date Signed: September 21, 2012

Date Mailed: September 21, 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.

201236259/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:

