

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

IN THE MATTER OF:

[REDACTED]

Reg. No: 201270764
Issue No: 2009
Case No: [REDACTED]
Hearing Date: November 15, 2012
Luce 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, November 15, 2012. Claimant appeared with his authorized hearings representative, [REDACTED]. Participants on behalf of the Department of Human Services (Department) included [REDACTED].

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 application on March 9, 2012 was denied on June 6, 2012 per BEM 260, with a hearing request on July 27, 2012.
2. Claimant was age [REDACTED] with a [REDACTED] and unskilled work experience as a manager for Service Max, welder, and semi-skilled experience as a auto parts store manager, and auto parts store assistant manager.
3. Claimant's last employment ended 2006 due to an injury.
4. Disability is alleged due to lower back problems, pain in the legs, nerve pain, neck pain (C5-C6), and a mental disorder, personality change, emotional outbursts, and hallucinations. (DHS Exhibit A, pg 759).

5. Medical reports of record state the Claimant on:
 - a. March 11, 2011, is alert, oriented and in **no acute distress**; and that he is able to move around with some **slight** difficulty (DHS Exhibit A, pg 747)
 - b. January 20, 2012, is cooperative, comfortable, and in no acute distress; that he is alert, oriented times three, and answers questions appropriately; that he is occasionally anxious and irritable; that he follows commands **well**; that he is able to stand up by himself without any support and walk a few steps; that he has a **slightly** unsteady gait and able to ambulate **well** with the help of a walker; that the bulk, power and tone of his extremities appear to be within **normal** limits; that he does have bilateral **mild** to **moderate** pedal edema. (DHS Exhibit, pg. 566).
 - c. February 1, 2012, his extremities show a symmetrical and functional range of motion; that he has no atrophy or deformity; that motor exam was at least grade 3-5 strength throughout; that sensation is intact; that tone is **normal**. (DHS Exhibit A, pg. 742).
 - d. March 16, 2012, is **normal** in appearance and not distressed; that musculoskeletally his lower extremity joints are **unremarkable** and non tender; that the cervical spine is **normal** and **unremarkable**; that the L-S spine has local lumbar tenderness; that the thoracic spine has a **normal** alignment; that he has **normal** motor strength in the lower extremities; that coordination is **normal**; that reflexes are 2+ symmetrical; that gait is shuffling with cane. (DHS Exhibit A, pg 636).
 - e. April 12, 2012, is **normal** in appearance and not distressed; that musculoskeletally his lower extremity joints are **unremarkable**; that cervical spine is **normal**; that he has a **normal** thoracic alignments; that motor strength is **normal**; that coordination is impaired; that reflexes are diminished; that gait is with use of a cane; that he is alert and oriented; that his responsiveness is appropriate.
6. State Hearing Review Team decision dated October 31, 2012 states the Claimant's impairments do not meet/equal a Social Security listing (DHS Exhibit, pg 759).

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.

...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.

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).

Step 1, disability is not denied. The evidence of record established the Claimant has not been engaged in substantial gainful activities since 2006.

Step 2, disability is denied. The medical evidence of record, on date of application, did not establish the Claimant's significant functional mental/physical incapacity to perform basic 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).

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)).

The burden of proof is on the claimant to establish disability in accordance with the 5 step process above. ...20 CFR 416.912(a).

...You must provide medical evidence showing that you have an impairment(s) and how severe it is during the time you say that you are disabled. 20 CFR 416.912(c).

[In reviewing your impairment]...We need reports about your impairments from acceptable medical sources.... 20 CFR 416.913(a).

Acceptable medical sources about your impairments are by an M.D. or D.O. or fully licensed psychologist. Medical reports should include assessment of your ability to do work related activities such as sitting, standing, moving about, carrying, handling objects, hearing, speaking, and traveling; and in cases of mental impairments, your ability to reason or make occupational, personal, or social adjustments. ...20 CFR 416.913(a)(c)(1) and (2).

Claimant testified that he can't do any work due to his mental discomfort; that he cannot talk to people; that he has poor memory and is forgetful; that he is limited to lifting/carrying five pounds.

...Statements about your pain or other symptoms will not alone establish that you are disabled; there must be medical signs and laboratory findings which show that you have a medical impairment.... 20 CFR 416.929(a).

The medical evidence of record shows that the Claimant was able to follow commands well; that he was alert and oriented x3; that he had slight difficulty (not severe) moving around; that he had mild to moderate (not severe) pedal edema; and that, otherwise, many of his physical exams were normal and/or unremarkable.

Therefore, the Claimant has not sustained his burden of proof to establish a severe mental/physical impairment in combination, instead of a non-severe impairment, for the required duration, and the sequential evaluation is required to discontinue.

Step 3 disability is denied. The objective medical evidence of record, for the required duration, does not establish Claimant's impairments meet/equal a Social Security listed impairment. Therefore, the analysis continues.

If Step 2 disability had not been denied, it would be denied at Step 4. The objective medical evidence of record, on date of application, does not establish the Claimant's functional mental/physical incapacity, despite his impairments, to perform any of his past work as an assistant manager, and manager of an auto parts store, or welder for the required one year continuous duration.

The medical reports of record are examination, diagnostic, treatment and progress reports and do not provide medical assessments of Claimant's limitations for past work. Therefore, the analysis discontinues.

If disability had not already been denied at Step 2 it would also be denied at Step 5. The medical evidence of record established the Claimant had a residual functional capacity (RFC), despite his impairments, to perform any other work in the National Economy for the required one year continuous duration.

The claimant introduced no objective medical evidence of record that he was unable to perform any of his past jobs under Step 4. Therefore; he should have the RFC for less strenuous type than his past work, such as sedentary work, as defined below.

At Step 5, the burden of proof shifts to the department to establish that Claimant does have residual functional capacity.

...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).

Under the Medical-Vocational Guidelines, Rule 201.27, a younger individual age 42, with a high school education and an unskilled work history who is limited to sedentary work is not considered disabled.

Therefore, medical disability has not been established at Steps 2 and also would not have been established at Steps 3, 4 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 disability was not medically established.

Accordingly, MA-P denial is UPHELD.

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

Date Signed: December 28, 2012

Date Mailed: January 2, 2013

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.

Claimant may request a rehearing or reconsideration for the following reasons:

- A rehearing **MAY** be granted if there is newly discovered evidence that could affect the outcome of the original hearing decision.
- A reconsideration **MAY** be granted for any of the following reasons:
 - misapplication of manual policy or law in the hearing decision,
 - typographical errors, mathematical error , or other obvious errors in the hearing decision that effect the substantial rights of the claimant;
 - the failure of the ALJ to address other relevant issues in the hearing decision

Request must be submitted through the local DHS office or directly to MAHS by mail at

Michigan Administrative Hearings
Reconsideration/Rehearing Request
P.O. Box 30639
Lansing, Michigan 48909-07322

WAS/hj

cc:

