

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. 2012-34244 HHS
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 on ██████████. ██████████, the Appellant, appeared on her own behalf. ██████████, friend, appeared as a witness for the Appellant. ██████████, Appeals Review Officer, represented the Department. ██████████, Adult Services Worker ("ASW"), and ██████████, Adult Services Supervisor, appeared as witnesses for the Department.

ISSUE

Did the Department properly reduce the Appellant's Home Help Services ("HHS") 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 who has been authorized for HHS.
2. The Appellant has been diagnosed with hypertension, spasmodic torticollis disease, and muscle spasms. (Exhibit 1, page 19, Exhibit 2)
3. The Appellant had been receiving ██████████ of HHS for assistance with bathing, grooming, dressing, transferring, mobility, housework, shopping, laundry, and meal preparation with a total care cost of ██████████ each month. (Exhibit 1, page 22)
4. On ██████████, the ASW went to the Appellant's home and completed an in-home assessment of the Appellant's HHS case. The ASW observed the Appellant walking independently with no cane or

walker. The ASW learned that the Appellant's sons live in the home. (ASW Testimony and Exhibit 1, page 16)

5. The Appellant's sons, ██████████, live with her. The Appellant's adult son has been her HHS provider since ██████████. (Appellant Testimony, Exhibit 1, pages 29-30)
6. The ASW determined that the HHS hours for mobility should be eliminated and the HHS hours for housework, shopping, laundry, and meal preparation should be prorated based on the shared household. (ASW Testimony, Exhibit 1, page 23)
7. On ██████████, the Department sent the Appellant an Advance Action Notice which informed her that effective ██████████, her HHS case would be reduced to ██████████ per month. (Exhibit 1, pages 6-8)
8. On ██████████, the Appellant's request for hearing was received by the Michigan Administrative Hearing System. (Exhibit 1, pages 4-5)

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.

Home Help Services (HHS) are provided to enable functionally limited individuals to live independently and receive care in the least restrictive, preferred settings. These activities must be certified by a physician and may be provided by individuals or by private or public agencies.

Adult Services Manual (ASM 120, 11-1-2011), pages 1-5 of 6 addresses the adult services comprehensive assessment:

INTRODUCTION

The DHS-324, Adult Services Comprehensive Assessment is the primary tool for determining need for services. The comprehensive assessment must be completed on **all open independent living services cases**. ASCAP, the automated workload management system, provides the format for the comprehensive assessment and all information will be entered on the computer program.

Requirements

Requirements for the comprehensive assessment include, but are not limited to:

- A comprehensive assessment will be completed on all new cases.
- A face-to-face contact is required with the client in his/her place of residence.
- The assessment may also include an interview with the individual who will be providing home help services.
- A new face-to-face assessment is required if there is a request for an increase in services before payment is authorized.
- A face-to-face assessment is required on all transfer-in cases before a payment is authorized.
- The assessment must be updated as often as necessary, but minimally at the six-month review and annual redetermination.
- A release of information must be obtained when requesting documentation from confidential sources and/or sharing information from the department record.
 - Use the DHS-26, Authorization to Release Information, when requesting client information from another agency.
 - Use the DHS-1555, Authorization to Release Protected Health Information, if requesting additional medical documentation; see RFF 1555. The form is primarily used for APS cases.
- Follow rules of confidentiality when home help cases have companion APS cases, see SRM 131 Confidentiality.

Functional Assessment

The **Functional Assessment** module of the **ASCAP** comprehensive assessment is the basis for service planning and for the HHS payment.

Conduct a functional assessment to determine the client's ability to perform the following activities:

Activities of Daily Living (ADL)

- Eating.

- Toileting.
- Bathing.
- Grooming.
- Dressing.
- Transferring.
- Mobility.

Instrumental Activities of Daily Living (IADL)

- Taking Medication.
- Meal Preparation and Cleanup.
- Shopping.
- Laundry.
- Light Housework.

Functional Scale

ADLs and IADLs are assessed according to the following five-point scale:

1. Independent
Performs the activity safely with no human assistance.
2. Verbal Assistance
Performs the activity with verbal assistance such as reminding, guiding or encouraging.
3. Some Human Assistance
Performs the activity with some direct physical assistance and/or assistive technology.
4. Much Human Assistance
Performs the activity with a great deal of human assistance and/or assistive technology.
5. Dependent
Does not perform the activity even with human assistance and/or assistive technology.

HHS payments may only be authorized for needs assessed at the 3 level or greater.

An individual must be assessed with at least one activity of daily living in order to be eligible to receive home help services.

Note: If the assessment determines a need for an ADL at a level 3 or greater but these services are not paid for by the

department, the individual would be eligible to receive IADL services.

Example: Ms. Smith is assessed at a level 4 for bathing however she refuses to receive assistance. Ms. Smith would be eligible to receive assistance with IADLs if the assessment determined a need at a level 3 or greater. See ASM 121, Functional Assessment Definitions and Ranks for a description of the rankings for activities of daily living and instrumental activities of daily living.

Time and Task

The specialist will allocate time for each task assessed a rank of 3 or higher, based on interviews with the client and provider, observation of the client's abilities and use of the reasonable time schedule (RTS) as a **guide**. The RTS can be found in ASCAP under the Payment module, Time and Task screen. When hours exceed the RTS rationale **must** be provided.

An assessment of need, at a ranking of 3 or higher, does not automatically guarantee the maximum allotted time allowed by the reasonable time schedule (RTS). **The specialist must assess each task according to the actual time required for its completion.**

Example: A client needs assistance with cutting up food. The specialist would only pay for the time required to cur the food and not the full amount of time allotted under the RTS for eating.

IADL Maximum Allowable Hours

There are monthly maximum hour limits on all IADLs except medication. The limits are as follows:

- Five hours/month for shopping
- Six hours/month for light housework
- Seven hours/month for laundry
- 25 hours/month for meal preparation

Proration of IADLs

If the client does not require the maximum allowable hours for IADLs, authorize only the amount of time needed for each task. Assessed hour for IADLs (except medications) must be prorated by **one half** in shared living arrangements where other adults reside in the home, as home help services are **only** for the benefit of the client.

Note: This does not include situations where others live in adjoining apartments/flats or in a separate home on shared property and there is no shared, common living area.

In shared living arrangements, where it can be **clearly** documented that IADLs for the eligible client are completed separately from others in the home, hours for IADLs do not need to be prorated.

Example: Client has special dietary needs and meals are prepared separately; client is incontinent of bowel and/or bladder and laundry is completed separately; client's shopping is completed separately due to special dietary needs and food is purchased from specialty stores; etc.

Responsible Relatives

Activities of daily living may be approved when the responsible relative is **unavailable** or **unable** to provide these services.

Note: Unavailable means absence from the home for an extended period due to employment, school or other legitimate reasons. The responsible relative must provide a work or school schedule to verify they are unavailable to provide care. **Unable** means the responsible person has disabilities of their own which prevent them from providing care. These disabilities must be documented/verified by a medical professional on the DHS-54A, Medical Needs form.

Do **not** approve shopping, laundry, or light housecleaning, when a responsible relative of the client resides in the home, **unless** they are unavailable or unable to provide these services. Document findings in the general narrative in ASCAP.

Example: Mrs. Smith is in need of home help services. Her spouse is employed and is out of the home Monday thru Friday from 7a.m. to 7p.m. The specialist would not approve hours for shopping, laundry or house cleaning as Mr. Smith is responsible for these tasks.

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Example: Mrs. Jones is in need of home help services. Her spouse's employment takes him out of town Monday thru Saturday. The specialist may approve hours for shopping, laundry or house cleaning.

Legal Dependent

Do **not** approve shopping, laundry, or light housecleaning, when a legal dependent of the client (minors 15-17) resides in the home, **unless** they are unavailable or unable to provide these services.

*Adult Services Manual (ASM) 120, 11-1-2011,
Pages 1-5 of 6*

The Appellant had been receiving ██████████ of HHS for assistance with bathing, grooming, dressing, transferring, mobility, housework, shopping, laundry, and meal preparation with a total care cost of ██████████ each month. (Exhibit 1, page 22)

On ██████████, the ASW went to the Appellant's home and completed an in-home assessment of the Appellant's HHS case. The ASW observed the Appellant walking independently with no cane or walker. The ASW learned that the Appellant's sons live in the home. (ASW Testimony and Exhibit 1, page 16) Based on the available information, the ASW concluded that the HHS hours for mobility should be eliminated and the HHS hours for housework, shopping, laundry, and meal preparation should be prorated based on the shared household. (ASW Testimony, Exhibit 1, page 23)

The Appellant disagrees with the reductions. The Appellant's friend testified that the Appellant needs assistance with mobility when she is out in public. He stated she uses a cane and has someone with her at all times when out, but not for getting around inside her home. The Appellant's friend asserted that the Appellant's needs for assistance with housework, shopping, laundry and meal preparation have not changed. (Friend Testimony)

The Appellant testified that she has a cane, crutches and a leg brace, but the ASW did not ask about them. She explained that she does not use these devices inside her home because she is only a few steps away from what she has to do. (Appellant Testimony) The Appellant also submitted written statements from herself, her adult son/HHS provider, and medical documentation of her condition and the over the door traction set. (Exhibit 2)

The evidence supports the ASW's determination to eliminate the HHS hours for mobility and to prorate the HHS hours for the IADLs of housework, shopping, laundry, and meal preparation. For the HHS program, the Functional Assessment Definitions and Ranks describe mobility as walking and/or moving around inside the living area. Adult Services Manual (ASM) 121, 11-1-2011, Page 3 of 4. There was no evidence that the Appellant

needs assistance for walking or moving around inside her home. The testimony of the Appellant and her friend only indicated a need for mobility assistance when out in public. Therefore the elimination of HHS hours for mobility is upheld. It was also uncontested that one of the Appellant's sons is an adult and lives in the home. The policy implemented by the Department recognizes that in most cases, certain tasks are performed that benefit all members who reside in the home together, such as cleaning, laundry, shopping, and meal preparation. There was no clear documentation that these activities are completed separately for the Appellant. Therefore HHS policy requires proration. The reductions to half of the maximum HHS hours allowed for housework, shopping, laundry, and meal preparation is also upheld.

DECISION AND ORDER

The Administrative Law Judge, based on the above findings of fact and conclusions of law, finds that the Department did properly reduce the Appellant's HHS authorization.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:

The Department's decision is **AFFIRMED**.

Colleen Lack
Administrative Law Judge
for Olga Dazzo, Director
Michigan Department of Community Health

cc:



Date Mailed: _____ June 6, 2012 _____

***** NOTICE *****

The Michigan Administrative Hearing System 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 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.