

STATE OF MICHIGAN
MICHIGAN ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING SYSTEM
FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY HEALTH
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IN THE MATTER OF:

██████████

Docket No. 2012-40668 HHS
Case No. ██████████

Appellant

_____ /

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 and testified. ██████████ the Department. ██████████ appeared as a witness for the ██████████. The Hearing record was left open for one week for the Department to submit the medical verification form, which was received.

ISSUE

Did the Department properly terminate the Appellant's Home Help Services ("HHS") case?

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 had been authorized for Home Help Services.
2. The Appellant has been diagnosed with avascular/aseptic necrosis right hip, chronic pancreatitis, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, and diabetes. (Exhibit 1, page 10; Exhibit 2)
3. The Appellant had been receiving HHS for assistance with the Instrumental Activities of Daily Living ("IADLs") of housework, laundry, and shopping. (Exhibit 1, page 13)
4. On ██████████ the Appellant's doctor completed a DHS-54A Medical Needs form certifying that the Appellant has a medical need for assistance with shopping, laundry, and housework. (Exhibit 2)
5. On ██████████ the ASW went to the Appellant's home and

completed an in-home assessment for a review of the Appellant's HHS case. The Appellant's HHS provider was also present. The ASW observed the Appellant walking and transferring on his own without the aid of any adaptive equipment and without pain or difficulty. The Appellant reported that his provider takes him to the store, cleans, does laundry and watches when the Appellant cooks. The ASW also went over the Activities of Daily Living ("ADLs") included in the HHS program and the Appellant reported he could do each of these activities on his own. (ASW Testimony and Exhibit 1, page 11)

6. Based on the available information the ASW concluded that the Appellant did not have a medical need for hands on assistance with any ADL. (ASW Testimony, Exhibit 1, pages 11 and 15)
7. On [REDACTED] the Department sent the Appellant an Advance Action Notice which informed him that effective [REDACTED] his HHS case would be terminated based on the new policy which requires the need for hands on services with at least one ADL. (Exhibit 1, pages 6-9)
8. On [REDACTED] the Appellant's request for hearing was received by the Michigan Administrative Hearing System. (Exhibit 1, page 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 cut 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.

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

Certain services are not covered by HHS. ASM 101 provides a listing of the services not covered by HHS.

Services not Covered by Home Help

Home help services must **not** be approved for the following:

- Supervising, monitoring, reminding, guiding, teaching or encouraging (functional assessment rank 2).
- Services provided for the benefit of others.
- Services for which a responsible relative is **able** and **available** to provide (such as house cleaning, laundry or shopping).
- Services provided by another resource at the same time (for example, hospitalization, MI-Choice Waiver).
- Transportation - See Bridges Administrative Manual (BAM) 825 for medical transportation policy and procedures.
- Money management such as power of attorney or representative payee.
- Home delivered meals.
- Adult or child day care.
- Recreational activities. (For example, accompanying and/or transporting to the movies, sporting events etc.)

Note: The above list is not all inclusive.

*Adult Services Manual (ASM) 101, 11-1-2011,
Pages 3-4 of 4.*

The Appellant had only been authorized HHS [REDACTED] for assistance with the IADLs of housework, laundry, and shopping. (Exhibit 1, page 15)

On [REDACTED] the ASW went to the Appellant's home and completed an in-home assessment for a review of the Appellant's HHS case. The Appellant's HHS provider was also present. The ASW observed the Appellant walking and transferring on his own without the aid of any adaptive equipment and without pain or difficulty. The Appellant reported that his provider takes him to the store, cleans, does laundry and watches when the Appellant cooks. The ASW went over the ADLs included in the HHS program and the Appellant reported he could do each of these activities on his own. (ASW Testimony and Exhibit 1, page 11) The ASW also considered the DHS-54A Medical Needs form completed by the Appellant's doctor on [REDACTED] which only certified a medical need for assistance with shopping, laundry, and housework. The ASW determined that the Appellant's HHS case must be terminated because he did not need hands on assistance, functional ranking 3 or greater, with at least one ADL.

The Appellant disagrees with the termination and testified that the medical verification form was already filled out before it was sent to the doctor, including having only the few activities he had been authorized HHS hours for marked with an "x". (Appellant Testimony) The ASW testified that the form he showed the Appellant at the home visit with x's next to activities was not the medical verification form; rather it was the provider log form. The ASW testified the DHS-54A Medical Needs form was not filled out before it was sent to the doctor, rather the doctor circled the activities the Appellant needed assistance with. (ASW Testimony) The hearing record was left open for the submission of a copy of the DHS-54A Medical needs form. This form does not show "x" marks next to the listed activities, but does show a circle around the IADLs of housework, shopping and laundry. The only typed "x" marks are next to the field the doctor is to complete. (Exhibit 2) The DHS-721 Personal Care Services Provider Log does have space next to each of the listed activities for the Department to mark with an "x" the activities HHS hours have been authorized for. (Reference Forms & Publications Manual (RRF) 721, Page 1 of 3, 6-1-2007)

The Appellant testified he has neuropathy in his left leg and hip and has had 2 hip replacements. At times he has trouble with his balance, standing and bending his legs. He uses a walking cane from time to time. The Appellant testified that even before the home visit, he needed some help some days with ADLs, such as bathing and putting on socks and shoes. The Appellant stated he thought the ASW was aware of these needs and did not recall the ASW asking about ADLs during the home visit. The Appellant also testified that he had a fall in February and has needed more assistance since that time. (Appellant Testimony)

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There was not sufficient evidence to establish that the Appellant needed hands on assistance, functional ranking 3 or greater, with at least one ADL. The ASW provided detailed and credible testimony as well as narrative notes from the assessment. The Appellant's testimony that he needed assistance with ADLs is not supported by the DHS-54A Medical Needs form his doctor completed (Exhibit 2) Accordingly, the ASW properly applied Adult Services Manual policy and took action to terminate the Appellant's HHS case because the Appellant did not require hands on assistance with at least one ADL based on the available information.

The Appellant testified he had a fall after the home visit and has additional needs for assistance. The Appellant can re-apply for the HHS program and provide medical verification of any changes in his condition, functional abilities and needs for assistance.

DECISION AND ORDER

The Administrative Law Judge, based on the above findings of fact and conclusions of law, finds that the Department properly terminated the Appellant's HHS authorization based on the information available at the time of the assessment.

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 Signed: _____

Date Mailed: _____

***** 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, if a timely request for rehearing was made, within 30 days of the receipt of the rehearing decision.