

**STATE OF MICHIGAN
MICHIGAN ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING SYSTEM
ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS FOR THE
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY HEALTH**

IN THE MATTER OF:

██████████

Docket No. 2012-48023 HHS
Case No. ██████████
Hearing Date: ██████████

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE: Jennifer Isiogu

HEARING DECISION

This matter is before the undersigned Administrative Law Judge pursuant to MCL 400.9 and MCL 400.37 following Appellant's request for a hearing. After due notice, a telephone hearing was held on the above referenced date. The Appellant appeared and testified. Participants on behalf of the Department of Community Health (Department) included ██████████, appeals and Review Officer, ██████████, Adult Services Supervisor and ██████████, Adult Services Worker.

ISSUE

Did the Department properly terminate the Appellant's Home Help Services?

FINDINGS OF FACT

The Administrative Law Judge, based on the competent, material, and substantial evidence on the whole record, finds as material fact:

1. The Appellant is a Medicaid beneficiary and a participant in the Home Help Services (HHS) program.
2. The Appellant is diagnosed with degenerative joint disease, back and leg pain, hepatitis b and c, depression and neuropathy.
3. On ██████████, the Appellant's Adult Services Worker completed a comprehensive assessment and concluded that the Appellant did not have a medical need for hands on assistance with at least one Activity of Daily Living at a rank of 3 or higher.

4. On ██████████, the Department sent the Appellant notice that effective ██████████ the Appellant's HHS were terminated because the Appellant had no medical need for hands on assistance with his Activities of Daily Living (ADLs)
5. On ██████████, the Michigan Administrative Hearing System received the Appellant's Request for Hearing.

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.

The Department of Community Health HHS Medicaid policy is found in the Department of Human Services Adult Services Manual (ASM) at ASM 100- 170. ASM 120, pp. 1-3 provides that HHS policy for comprehensive assessments. ASM 120 provides in pertinent part:

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 must 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-27, 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. This form is primarily used for APS cases.
- Follow rules of confidentiality when home help cases have companion adult protective services 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 home help services 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

Home help payments may only be authorized for needs assessed at the level 3 ranking 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.

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.

Complex Care
Needs

Complex care refers to conditions requiring intervention with special techniques and/or knowledge. These complex care tasks are performed on client's[sic] whose diagnoses or conditions require more management. The conditions may also require special treatment and equipment for which specific instructions by a health professional or client may be required in order to perform.

- Eating and feeding.
- Catheters or legs bags.
- Colostomy care.
- Bowel program.
- Suctioning.
- Specialized skin care.
- Range of motion exercises.
- Peritoneal dialysis.
- Wound care.
- Respiratory treatment.
- Ventilators.
- Injections.

When assessing a client with complex care needs, refer to the complex care guidelines on the adult services home page.

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.**

IADL Maximum
Allowable Hours

There are monthly maximum hour limits on all instrumental activities of daily living 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 hours 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 adjoined 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.

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.

Legal
Dependent

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.

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.

**Expanded Home
Help Services
(EHHS)**

Expanded home help services exists if all basic home help services eligibility criteria are met and the assessment indicates the client's needs are so extensive that the cost of care cannot be Met within the monthly maximum payment level of \$549.99.

Michigan
Department of
Community
Health Approvals

When the client's cost of care exceeds \$1299.99 for any reason, the adult services specialist must submit a written request for approval to the Michigan Department of Community Health(MDCH).

Follow the **Procedures for Submitting Expanded Home Help Requests** found on the Adult Services Home Page. Submit the request with all required documentation to:

Michigan Department of Community Health
Long Term Care Services Policy Section
Capital Commons Building, 6th Floor
P.O. Box 30479
Lansing, MI 48909

MDCH will provide written documentation (DCH-1785) of approval. A new request **must** be submitted to the Michigan Department of Community Health whenever there is an increase in the cost of care amount. A new request is **not** require[sic] if the cost of care decreases below the approved amount set by MDCH.

Note: If an expanded home help case closes and reopens within 90 days and the care cost remains the same, a new MDCH approval is **not** required.

ASM 120, pp 1-3.

The Department of Human Services issued Interim Policy Bulletin ASB 2011-001 with an effective date of October 1, 2011. This Interim Policy limits HHS eligibility to Medicaid beneficiaries with a medical need for assistance with one or more ADLs at a ranking of 3 or higher. Interim Policy Bulletin ASB 2011-001 provides in pertinent part:

**Home Help
Eligibility
Criteria**

To qualify for home help services, an individual must require assistance with at least one activity of daily living (ADL) assessed at a level 3 or greater. The change in policy must be applied to any new cases opened on or after October 1, 2011, and to all ongoing cases as of October 1, 2011.

**Comprehensive
Assessment
Required
Before Closure**

Clients currently receiving home help services must be assessed at the next face-to-face contact in the client's home to determine continued eligibility. If

the adult services specialist has a face-to-face contact in the client's home prior to the next scheduled review/redetermination, an assessment of need must take place at that time

**Negative
Action
Notice**

The adult services specialist must provide a DHS 1212, Advance Negative Action notice, if the assessment determines the client is no longer eligible to receive home help services. The effective date of the negative action is ten business days after the date the notice is mailed to the client.

The reason for termination of services should state the following:

New policy, effective October 1, 2011, by the Department of Community Health/Department of Human Services requires the need for hands-on services of at least one activity of daily living (ADL). The most recent assessment conducted at your last review did not identify a need for an ADL. Therefore, you are no longer eligible for home help services.

**Right to
Appeal**

Clients have the right to request a hearing if they disagree with the assessment. If the client requests a hearing within ten business days, do not proceed with the negative action until after the result of the hearing. Explain to the client that if the department is upheld, recoupment must take place back to the negative action date if payments continue. Provide the client with an option of continuing payment or suspending payment until after the hearing decision is rendered. If the client requests a hearing after the 10-day notice and case closure has occurred, do not reopen the case pending the hearing decision. If the department's action is reversed, the case will need to be reopened and payment re-established back to the effective date of the negative action. If the department's action is upheld, no further action is required.

Reason: Implementation of new policy pursuant to requirements under Public Act 63 of 2011.

Interim Policy Bulletin Independent Living Services
(ILS) Eligibility Criteria
ASB 2011-001 10-1-2011

On ██████████ the Appellant's Adult Services Worker completed a comprehensive assessment and concluded that the Appellant did not have a medical need for hands on assistance with at least one Activity of Daily Living at a rank of 3 or higher. She based her determination on her direct observation and the Appellant's statement to her at the assessment, that he did not require assistance with personal care (ADL's). Documents entered into evidence reveal historically the Appellant has received assistance from his provider 3 days per week and no assistance with activities of daily living or personal care. He has historically been getting help with housework, shopping, laundry and meal preparation. At the assessment, he was observed walking inside of his home with a normal appearing gait. He was not seen struggling, despite his bilateral hip replacement. He had surgery on a dropped foot in ██████████. He reported some improvement as a result of this surgery, but not as much as he expected. The worker reported no use of cane or walker inside of the home. She further testified she was told he mainly needed help with laundry.

The Appellant is contesting the Department's discontinuation of assistance through this program. He said he has to see a heart specialist and lung specialist. He is in chronic pain and he hurts a lot. He said he cannot go up or down stairs but he does not use the stairs for personal care activities such as bathing, dressing or grooming. He said he had a blood clot in his lung and has been in the hospital and will be having more surgery.

This ALJ considered the evidence of record. It appears the Appellant may be suffering some health ailments that he was not experiencing at the time of assessment and determination, specifically, his heart and lung ailments. If these medical conditions are impacting his functional level, he may want to consider re-applying for the program. The determination completed by the Adult Services worker back in March appears to be sound based upon the evidence of record. The Appellant was directly observed ambulatory inside of his home without use of any assistive devices. Although he cannot traverse stairs, he has no need to do so in order to sleep or perform his own personal care. This ALJ does understand he requires physical assistance to complete laundry, however, is unable to authorize such as service based upon new policy. The new policy is more restrictive than older policy, which allowed authorization of services for instrumental activities of daily living, even when a person was able to complete their own activities of daily living. This ALJ does not possess equitable jurisdiction, thus cannot assist the Appellant to obtain laundry assistance.

Based upon the above Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, the Administrative Law Judge concludes that the Department properly determined that the Appellant did not have a medical need for one ADL at a rank of 3 or higher and properly terminated the Appellant's HHS.

DECISION AND ORDER

The Administrative Law Judge, based upon the above Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, finds that the Department did act properly. Accordingly, the Department's Home Help Services decision is AFFIRMED.

/s/

Jennifer Isiogu
Administrative Law Judge
For James K. Haveman, Director
Michigan Department of Community Health

Date Mailed: 9/17/12

NOTICE: The Michigan Administrative Hearing System (MAHS) 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. MAHS 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 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 date of the rehearing decision.

Appellant 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 Appellant:
 - 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 Hearing System
Reconsideration/Rehearing Request
P. O. Box 30763
Lansing, Michigan 48909

cc:

[REDACTED]