

**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) 373-4147

IN THE MATTER OF:

██████████,

Appellant

Docket No. 2012-64042 PA
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 ██████████. ██████████ appeared on behalf of the Appellant. She had no witnesses. ██████████, RN, represented the Department. She had no witnesses.

ISSUE

Did the Department properly deny the Appellant's request for prior authorization (PA) of a [EZ Rider] stroller-style manual wheelchair?

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 ██████-year old, Medicaid beneficiary. (Appellant's Exhibit #1)
2. The Appellant is afflicted with Cerebral Palsy and Autism. (Appellant's Exhibit #1 and Department's Exhibit A, page 17)
3. The Appellant has outgrown his existing Convoid Cruiser stroller. (Appellant's Exhibit #1 and Department's Exhibit A, pages 6 and 16)
4. The Appellant's representative seeks the above referenced model EZ Rider stroller for safe transport and because the school needs one. (Appellant's Exhibit #1 and See Testimony)
5. On ██████████, the Department received a PA for a EZ Rider manual stroller style wheelchair the request for which was denied by MDCH Medical consultant, Dr. ██████████ on ██████████. (Department's Exhibit A, pages 1 through 22)

6. The request for PA was denied in writing for lack of information supporting medical necessity and owing to conflicting documentation. (See Testimony of ██████████ and Department's Exhibit A at pages 6 and 11)
7. The PA requestor was advised that the department would reconsider coverage of the desired stroller as an economic alternative if a more accurate evaluation was prepared detailing medical necessity. (See Testimony of ██████████)
8. The Department's witness advised the Appellant's representative that the Michigan Department of Community Health is not responsible for the Appellant's school transport issues. (See Testimony of ██████████)
9. On ██████████, the Michigan Administrative Hearing System for the Department of Community Health received the hearing request filed on the Appellant's behalf. (Appellant's Exhibit #1)

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.

It is axiomatic that the Medicaid program exists to ensure that medically necessary services and equipment are made available to those who would not otherwise have the resources to purchase them. It is also fundamental that Medicaid is payor of last resort and always covers the least costly alternative that meets the beneficiary's medical need.

The Medicaid Provider Manual (MPM) provides, in pertinent part, as follows:

MEDICAL NECESSITY

Medical devices are covered if they are the most cost-effective treatment available and meet the Standards of Coverage stated in the Coverage Conditions and Requirements Section of this chapter.

The medical record must contain sufficient documentation of the beneficiary's medical condition to substantiate the necessity for the type and quantity of items ordered and for the frequency of use or replacement. The information should include the beneficiary's diagnosis, medical condition, and other pertinent information including, but not limited to,

duration of the condition, clinical course, prognosis, nature and extent of functional limitations, other therapeutic interventions and results, and past experience with related items. Neither a physician's order nor a certificate of medical necessity by itself provides sufficient documentation of medical necessity, even though it is signed by the treating physician. Information in the medical record must support the item's medical necessity and substantiate that the medical device needed is the most appropriate economic alternative that meets MDCH standards of coverage.

Medical equipment may be determined to be medically necessary when all of the following apply:

- Within applicable federal and state laws, rules, regulations, and MDCH promulgated policies.
- Medically appropriate and necessary to treat a specific medical diagnosis or medical condition, or functional need, and is an integral part of the nursing facility daily plan of care or is required for the community residential setting.
- Within accepted medical standards; practice guidelines related to type, frequency, and duration of treatment; and within scope of current medical practice.
- Inappropriate to use a nonmedical item.
- The most cost effective treatment available.
- It is ordered by the treating physician, and clinical documentation from the medical record supports the medical necessity for the request (as described above) and substantiates the physician's order.
- It meets the standards of coverage published by MDCH.
- It meets the definition of Durable Medical Equipment (DME), as defined in the Program Overview section of this chapter.
- Its use meets FDA and manufacturer indications. MPM, Medical Supplier, §1.5, April 1, 2012, pages 4, 5.

2.47 WHEELCHAIRS ...

[2.47.B. STANDARDS OF COVERAGE]

Manual Wheelchair in Community Residential Setting

May be covered if **all** of the following are met:

- Has a diagnosis/medical condition that indicates a lack of functional ambulatory status and ambulates less than 150 feet within one minute with or without an assistive medical device.
- Must be able to regularly use the wheelchair throughout the day.
- Must be able to be positioned in the chair safely and without aggravating any medical condition or causing injury.
- Purchase of a wheelchair is required for long-term use (greater than 10 months).
- Must have a method to propel wheelchair, which may include:
 - Ability to self-propel for at least 60 feet over hard, smooth, or carpeted surfaces.
 - The beneficiary has a willing and able caregiver to push the chair if needed.

In addition:

A **standard hemi-wheelchair** may be covered when a lower seat to the floor is required.

A **standard light-weight wheelchair** may be covered when the beneficiary is unable to propel a standard wheelchair due to decreased upper extremity strength or secondary to a medical condition that affects endurance.

A **heavy-duty standard wheelchair** may be covered if the beneficiary's weight is more than 250 pounds but does not exceed 300 pounds.

An **extra heavy-duty standard wheelchair** is covered if the beneficiary's weight exceeds 300 pounds.

A **high-strength light-weight or ultra-light standard wheelchair** may be covered when required for a specific functional need.

A **back-up or secondary standard manual wheelchair** may be considered when:

- The beneficiary is primarily a power wheelchair user but needs a manual wheelchair to have access to the community or independent living.
- The beneficiary's medical condition requires a power wheelchair that cannot accommodate public transportation and, therefore, requires another transport device.

Pediatric Mobility Devices and Wheelchairs

May be covered if **all** of the following are met for each type of device. For CSHCS beneficiaries, a medical referral from an appropriate board-certified pediatric subspecialist or an Office of Medical Affairs (OMA)-approved physician is required. MDCH also reserves the right to require a medical referral from an appropriate board-certified pediatric subspecialist for Medicaid beneficiaries.

For manual pediatric wheelchairs:

- Has a diagnosis/medical condition that indicates a lack of functional ambulatory status with or without an assistive medical device or has a willing and able caregiver to push the chair **and** the wheelchair is required in a community residential setting.
- Is required for long-term use (greater than 10 months).
- Must accommodate growth and adjustments for seating systems a minimum of 3" in depth and 2" in width.
- Is designed to be transportable.
- Is the most economic alternative available to meet the beneficiary's mobility needs.

For power wheelchairs:

- Lacks ability to propel a manual wheelchair, or has a medical condition that would be compromised by propelling a manual wheelchair, for at least 60 feet over hard, smooth, or carpeted surfaces (this includes the need to rest at intervals).
- Is able to safely control the wheelchair through doorways and over thresholds up to 1½".
- Has a cognitive, functional level that is adequate for power wheelchair mobility.
- Has visual acuity that permits safe operation of a power mobility device.

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- Must accommodate growth and adjustments for custom-fabricated seating systems a minimum of 3" in depth and 2" in width.
- For a three-wheeled power mobility device, has sufficient trunk control and balance.

For transport mobility medical devices (e.g., strollers):

- Is over three years of age or has a medical condition that cannot be accommodated by commercial products.
- Will be the primary mobility device due to inability to self-propel a manual wheelchair or operate a power wheelchair.
- Is required as a transport device when the primary wheelchair cannot be designed to be transportable.
- Must accommodate growth and adjustments for seating systems a minimum of 3" in depth and 2" in width.
- Is the most economic alternative available to meet the beneficiary's mobility needs.
- Is required for use in the community residential setting.

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Supra, §2.47.B, pp. 81 – 83.

The Department's witness, ██████████, testified that on review of the PA she denied the request for lack of demonstrating medical necessity and because there was conflicting information presented within the PA request – she referred to pages 6 and 11 of the Department's Exhibit A as an example of such conflict.

She added that the Department would gladly reconsider a resubmitted PA without conflicting documentation and a more accurate assessment.

The Appellant's representative said she had no information on how the PA [assessment] was completed, but she emphasized her concern for acquiring a properly fitted, safe, manual stroller for the Appellant.

Based on the documentation submitted the Appellant's PA did not meet Medicaid standard of coverage for a manual wheelchair. Accordingly, the Department's denial must be upheld.


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DECISION AND ORDER

The Administrative Law Judge, based on the above findings of fact and conclusions of law, decides that the Department properly denied the Appellant's request for a [EZ Rider] stroller-style manual wheelchair.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that:

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

Dale Malewska
Administrative Law Judge
for James K. Haveman, Director
Michigan Department of Community Health

cc:



Date Mailed: 4/18/2013

***** 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.