

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

**IN THE MATTER OF:**

[REDACTED]

Reg. No: 201258536  
Issue No: 2009  
Case No: [REDACTED]  
Hearing Date: October 18, 2012  
Livingston 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, an in-person hearing was held on October 18, 2012. Claimant appeared and provided testimony on his behalf. 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 April 1, 2012 was denied on May 1, 2012 per BEM 260, with a hearing request on June 14, 2012.
2. Claimant was age 49, with a high school or more education.
3. Claimant's last employment ended May, 2010 due to lay-off; he became eligible for unemployment compensation benefits with exhaustion on February, 2011.
4. Claimant alleges disability due to medically diagnosed disorders of degenerative disc disease, bulging discs, scoliosis, arthritis and asthma. (DHD exhibit A, pg 34)
5. Medical reports of record state the Claimant on:
  - a. November 1, 2011, thinks all of the shoulder pain will get better over time; that claimant continues to take Vicodin ES 5 times a day; he states this controls his pain well; that he has not been doing any roofing jobs because there just hasn't been work available; that on

exam, he is a well-nourished male sitting comfortably in the examination room; that gait is normal; that cervical range of motion is full; that he has some pain of lumbar flexion and extension; that reflexes are 2+ bilaterally and symmetrically; that strength testing is 5/5 in upper and lower extremities. (DHS exhibit A, pg. 19)

b. January 30, 2012, is hoping to find work by the spring; that he states that he is actually feeling pretty well this month; that he continues with Vicodin; that on exam, he easily gets in and out of the chair; that gait is normal; that he is able to heel and toe walk; that he has no significant exacerbation of pain with forward flexion or extension and that he has degenerative disc disease and low back pain (DHS exhibit A, pg. 17).

6. State Hearing Review Team decision dated July 20, 2012 states the Claimant's impairments do not meet/equal a Social Security listing (DHS Exhibit A, Page 34).

### **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 May, 2010.

Step 2, disability is not denied. The medical evidence of record, on date of application, does establish the Claimant's significant functional incapacity to do basic work activities, based on the *de minimus* standards 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 below. ...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 could not do any work because of the pain in his upper legs and lower back from prolonged sitting or standing; that he is unable to lift/carry 15-20 pounds; and that his asthma is controlled with medication.

In November 2011, stated that his medication controls his pain well; that he has not been doing any roofing jobs because of unavailable work; on exam he is well-nourished, sitting comfortably in the examination room.

Therefore, the Claimant has sustained his burden of proof to establish a severe physical impairment instead of a non-severe impairment, for the required duration, and the sequential evaluation is required to continue.

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

Step 4 disability is denied. The medical evidence of record, on date of application, does not establish the Claimant's functional incapacity, despite his impairments, to perform any of his past work.

At Step 5, the burden of proof shifts to the department to establish that Claimant does have a 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, a younger individual age 49, with a high school education and a semi-skilled work history who is limited to sedentary work is not considered disabled.

Therefore, medical disability has not been established at Step 3 or Step 4 and also would not be established at Step 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**.

*William A. Sundquist*

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

Date Signed: February 12, 2013

Date Mailed: February 12, 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.

WAS/cr

cc:

