

**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:

Docket No. 2013-27240 HHS

██████████
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. She was represented by ██████████ her choreprovider. ██████████, Appeals Review Officer, represented the Department. Her witnesses were ██████████, ASW and ██████████ ASW.

ISSUE

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

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-SSI beneficiary. (Appellant's Exhibit #1)
2. The Appellant is afflicted with a rotator cuff tear and the sequela of her left knee replacement. (Department's Exhibit A, pp. 8-11)
3. The Appellant's representative said that the Appellant needs help with bathing, dressing and grooming - in addition to her IADLs. (See Testimony)
4. The Department's witness, ASW ██████████, testified that she observed the Appellant demonstrate ability to dress and the ability to enter the bath without assistance bending her knee at 90 degrees. The parties disagreed about her ability to groom – particularly her ability to clip her toe nails. (See Testimony – throughout)
5. The Department witness testified that she made contact with the Appellant on ██████████ for an in-home assessment. While there, the Appellant did not identify a need for hands-on services for any ADL. (Department's

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Exhibit A, pages 2, and 9 – 11)

6. The Department witness sent the Appellant an Advance Negative Action Notice on ██████████, terminating services. (Department's Exhibit A, pages 2, and 5)
7. The Appellant's further appeal rights were contained in the Advance Negative Action Notice.
8. The request for hearing on the instant appeal was received by the Michigan Administrative Hearing System for the Department of Community Health on ██████████. (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 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 medical professional¹.

COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENT

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 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.

¹ Does not include a Physician Assistant. See Department's Ex. A, pp. 13, 14

- 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.

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Adult Service Manual (ASM), §120, page 1 of 5, 5-1-2012.

Changes in the home help eligibility criteria:

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.

Example: A face-to-face review was completed in August 2011; the next scheduled review will be in February 2012. The specialist meets with the client in his/her home for a provider interview in December 2011. Previous assessments indicate the client only needing assistance with instrumental activities of daily living (IADL). A new comprehensive assessment must be completed on this client.

If the assessment determines a need for an ADL at level 3 or greater but these services are **not** paid for by the department, or the client refuses to receive assistance, the client would **continue** to be eligible to receive IADL services.

If the client is receiving only IADLs and does **not** require assistance with at least one ADL, the client no longer meets eligibility for home help services and the case must close after negative action notice is provided.

Each month, beginning with October, 2011, clients with reviews due who only receive IADL services must take priority.

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.

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.

Adult Service Bulletin (ASB) 2011-001;
Interim Policy Bulletin Independent Living Services (ILS)
Eligibility Criteria, pp. 1–3, October 1, 2011

The Department witness testified that she terminated the Appellant's HHS services because she did not identify a need for hands-on assistance. She explained policy developments and advised the Appellant that her Home Help Services would be

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terminated for lack of need with hands-on assistance with her ADLs at a ranking of three (3) or greater.

At hearing, the Department's witness explained that she asked the Appellant during the comprehensive assessment about many of her perceived ADL needs. The Appellant told the ASW that she was not in need of hands-on assistance with bathing, grooming, toileting, eating, mobility or respiration. She demonstrated an ability to dress herself. I thought the ASW's skillful observations and assessments were accurate when rendered.

The Appellant's representative stressed her concern for the Appellant's need for assistance with grooming – her inability to clip her toe nails for example - and that the Appellant has had a post assessment set-back in her ability to self manage her ADLs.

The Department, by way of Department's Ex. B [physical therapy report dated [REDACTED]] showed that the reason PT ended was that the Appellant had achieved her goals – and was then to follow a home exercise plan.

It is the province of the ASW to determine eligibility for services; the ASM requires an in-home, comprehensive assessment of HHS recipients. Based on new policy an HHS recipient must utilize at least one (1) ADL requiring hands on service at the three (3) ranking or higher in order to remain eligible for HHS.

The Appellant failed to preponderate her burden of proof that the Department erred in terminating her HHS, because at the time of assessment she demonstrated no inability to perform her ADLs. She may have had a swollen knee² – as would be expected post knee replacement surgery, but she was able to render her own personal care.

If the Appellant has had a post-assessment change in condition - of some significant degree – then the Appellant will need to marshal her new medical evidence and seek reassessment through the ASW or the Department.

² There is no expectation under policy that an HHS recipient be pain free before services would end.

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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 terminated the Appellant's HHS.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that:

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

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

DM/skb

cc:

[REDACTED]

Date Signed: [REDACTED]

Date Mailed: [REDACTED]

***** 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.