

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

IN THE MATTER OF:

[REDACTED]

Reg. No.: 2013-9546
Issue No.: 2009
Case No.: [REDACTED]
Hearing Date: February 6, 2013
County: Monroe

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE: Vicki L. Armstrong

HEARING DECISION

This matter is before the undersigned Administrative Law Judge upon Claimant's request for a hearing made pursuant to Michigan Compiled Laws 400.9 and 400.37, which govern the administrative hearing and appeal process. After due notice, an in-person hearing was commenced on February 6, 2013, at the DHS office in Ingham County. Claimant, represented by [REDACTED] of [REDACTED] personally appeared and testified. Participants on behalf of the Department of Human Services (Department) included Eligibility Specialist [REDACTED]

ISSUE

Whether the Department of Human Services (the department) properly denied Claimant's application for Medical Assistance (MA-P) and Retro-MA benefits?

FINDINGS OF FACT

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

- (1) On April 26, 2012, Claimant applied for MA-P and Retro-MA.
- (2) On August 20, 2012, the Medical Review Team (MRT) denied Claimant's MA/Retro-MA application indicating he was capable of performing other work pursuant to 20 CFR 416.920(f). (Depart Ex. A, pp 1-2).
- (3) On August 23, 2012, the department caseworker sent Claimant notice that his application was denied.
- (4) On November 6, 2012, Claimant filed a request for a hearing to contest the department's negative action.

- (5) On January 3, 2013, the State Hearing Review Team (SHRT) upheld the denial of MA-P and Retro-MA indicating Claimant retains the capacity to perform light work. (Depart Ex. B, pp 1-2).
- (6) Claimant alleges disability based on a history of severe chronic anemia, ulcerative colitis, deep vein thrombosis, osteoarthritis, and mitral valve prolapse.
- (7) On February 11, 2012, Claimant was admitted to the hospital with a diagnosis of possible exacerbation of ulcerative colitis, acute blood loss anemia, hyponatremia, hypokalemia, history of mitral valve prolapse, and osteoarthritis. Claimant was discharged on February 18, 2012. (Depart Ex. A, pp 21-25).
- (8) On February 29, 2012, Claimant was admitted to the hospital with severe malnutrition, borderline cachectic, with severe weight loss of 70 pounds as well as chronic blood loss. He had borderline tachycardia. Claimant was discharged on March 6, 2012 with a diagnosis of severe ulcerative colitis with acute exacerbation secondary to noncompliance with medications due to lack of money and insurance; normocytic anemia post transfusion, hemoglobin stable; fecal occult blood test positive due to ulcerative colitis; acute renal injury, resolved; and protein-calorie malnutrition secondary to above, clinically improving. (Depart Ex. A, pp 26-36).
- (9) On March 27, 2012, Claimant was admitted to the hospital because of extensive deep vein thrombosis in the left leg associated with anemia with hemoglobin of 9.6. He has a history of multiple blood transfusions secondary to anemia. He had ulcerative colitis and severe diarrhea. He was on steroids and antibiotics. He had left lower extremity edema. He was given blood transfusions. He was seen by a gastroenterologist and a vascular surgeon and an inferior vena cava filter was inserted. He was discharged back to the nursing home on March 30, 2012, with a final diagnosis of extensive deep venous thrombosis (DVT) of the left leg, severe ulcerative colitis and anemia secondary to ulcerative colitis. (Depart Ex. A, pp 37-40).
- (10) On June 30, 2012, Claimant underwent a medical evaluation by the department. Claimant's chief complaints were ulcerative colitis and mitral valve prolapse. In February, 2012, Claimant had a recurrence of ulcerative colitis and was hospitalized, during which time he received a blood transfusion, IV fluids and electrolyte replacement. He was hospitalized for 2 weeks, then transferred to a nursing home. While at the nursing home he developed a blood clot in his left leg and was again hospitalized for three days during which he had an inferior vena cava filter put in. He is not a candidate for Coumadin because of the colitis. He stayed in the nursing home until May 2, 2012. Since he went home he is

still feeling very tired and weak. He gets exhausted very easily with mild to moderate activity. He can only walk 30 feet and he gets tired and exhausted and has to sit down. He cannot stand for long periods of time, as he gets tired. Claimant was assessed with mitral valve prolapse, currently asymptomatic; ulcerative colitis with recent hospitalization; chronic anemia with associated weakness, easy fatigability and exhaustion; and status post DVT in the right lower extremity, status post IVC filter. (Depart Ex. A, pp 3-10).

- (11) On August 18, 2012, Claimant underwent a medical evaluation by the [REDACTED]. Claimant has a history of ulcerative colitis for which he was taking Asacol and following up with his gastroenterologist every two months. Based on the examination, the physician opined that Claimant appeared to have the ability to ambulate, climb stairs or be in the seated or standing position for long periods of time. He appeared to have the ability to push, pull, lift or carry up to 10 pounds frequently and 20 pounds occasionally throughout the day. He had intact grip strength and fine motor manipulation was intact. (Department Exhibit B, pp 3-5).
- (12) Claimant is a 49 year old man whose birthday is [REDACTED]. Claimant is 6'1" tall and weighs 185 lbs. Claimant completed high school.
- (13) Claimant was appealing the denial for Social Security disability at the time of the hearing.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

The Medical Assistance (MA) program is established by the 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 (formerly known as the Family Independence Agency) 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 Reference Tables Manual (RFT).

Under the Medicaid (MA) program:

"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.

When determining disability, the federal regulations require several factors to be considered, including: (1) the location/duration/frequency/intensity of an applicant's pain; (2) the type/dosage/effectiveness/side effects of any medication the applicant takes to relieve pain; (3) any treatment other than pain medication that the applicant has received to relieve pain; and (4) the effect of the applicant's pain on his or her ability to do basic work activities. 20 CFR 416.929(c)(3). The applicant's pain must be assessed to determine the extent of his or her functional limitations in light of the objective medical evidence presented. 20 CFR 416.929(c)(94).

In determining whether you are disabled, we will consider all of your symptoms, including pain, and the extent to which your symptoms can reasonably be accepted as consistent with objective medical evidence, and other evidence. 20 CFR 416.929(a). Pain or other symptoms may cause a limitation of function beyond that which can be determined on the basis of the anatomical, physiological or psychological abnormalities considered alone. 20 CFR 416.945(e).

In evaluating the intensity and persistence of your symptoms, including pain, we will consider all of the available evidence, including your medical history, the medical signs and laboratory findings and statements about how your symptoms affect you. We will then determine the extent to which your alleged functional limitations or restrictions due to pain or other symptoms can reasonably be accepted as consistent with the medical signs and laboratory findings and other evidence to decide how your symptoms affect your ability to work. 20 CFR 416.929(a).

The person claiming a physical or mental disability has the burden to establish it through the use of competent medical evidence from qualified medical sources such as his or her medical history, clinical/laboratory findings, diagnosis/prescribed treatment, prognosis for recovery and/or medical assessment of ability to do work-related activities or ability to reason and to make appropriate mental adjustments, if a mental disability is being alleged, 20 CFR 416.913. An individual's subjective pain complaints are not, in and of themselves, sufficient to establish disability. 20 CFR 416.908 and 20 CFR 416.929. By the same token, a conclusory statement by a physician or mental health professional that an individual is disabled or blind is not sufficient without supporting medical evidence to establish disability. 20 CFR 416.929.

A set order is used to determine disability. Current work activity, severity of impairments, residual functional capacity, past work, age, or education and work experience is reviewed. If there is a finding that an individual is disabled or not disabled at any point in the review, there will be no further evaluation. 20 CFR 416.920.

If an individual is working and the work is substantial gainful activity, the individual is not disabled regardless of the medical condition, education and work experience. 20 CFR 416.920(c).

If the impairment, or combination of impairments, do not significantly limit physical or mental ability to do basic work activities, it is not a severe impairment(s) and disability

does not exist. Age, education and work experience will not be considered. 20 CFR 416.920.

Statements about pain or other symptoms do not alone establish disability. There must be medical signs and laboratory findings which demonstrate a medical impairment. 20 CFR 416.929(a).

Medical reports should include –

- (1) Medical history.
- (2) Clinical findings (such as the results of physical or mental status examinations);
- (3) Laboratory findings (such as blood pressure, X-rays);
- (4) Diagnosis (statement of disease or injury based on its signs and symptoms). 20 CFR 416.913(b).

In determining disability under the law, the ability to work is measured. An individual's functional capacity for doing basic work activities is evaluated. If an individual has the ability to perform basic work activities without significant limitations, he or she is not considered disabled. 20 CFR 416.994(b)(1)(iv). Basic work activities are 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).

Medical findings must allow a determination of (1) the nature and limiting effects of your impairment(s) for any period in question; (2) the probable duration of the impairment; and (3) the residual functional capacity to do work-related physical and mental activities. 20 CFR 416.913(d).

The residual functional capacity is what an individual can do despite limitations. All impairments will be considered in addition to ability to meet certain demands of jobs in the national economy. Physical demands, mental demands, sensory requirements and other functions will be evaluated. 20 CFR 416.945(a).

To determine the physical demands (exertional requirements) of work in the national economy, we classify jobs as sedentary, light, medium and 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 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). Light work involves lifting no more than 20 pounds at a time with frequent lifting or carrying of objects weighing up to 10 pounds. Even though the weight lifted may be very little, a job is in this category when it requires a good deal of walking or standing, or when it involves sitting most of the time with some pushing and pulling of arm or leg controls. 20 CFR 416.967(b). Medium work involves lifting no more than 50 pounds at a time with frequent lifting or carrying of objects weighing up to 25 pounds. If someone can do medium work, we determine that he or she can also do sedentary and light work. 20 CFR 416.967(c). Heavy work involves lifting no more than 100 pounds at a time with frequent lifting or carrying of objects weighing up to 50 pounds. If someone can do heavy work, we determine that he or she can also do medium, light, and sedentary work. 20 CFR 416.967(d).

The Administrative Law Judge is responsible for making the determination or decision about whether the statutory definition of disability is met. The Administrative Law Judge reviews all medical findings and other evidence that support a medical source's statement of disability. 20 CFR 416.927(e).

When determining disability, the federal regulations 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).

Based on Finding of Facts #6-#12 above this Administrative Law Judge answers:

Step 1: No.

Step 2: Yes.

Step 3: Yes. Claimant has shown, by clear and convincing documentary evidence and credible testimony, his cardiovascular impairments meet or equal Listing 4.02(A) and 7.02(A):

7.02(A). Chronic anemia (hematocrit persisting at 30 percent or less due to any cause) with a requirement of one or more blood transfusions on an average of at least once every 2 months.

DECISION AND ORDER

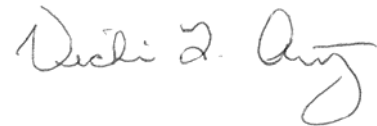
The Administrative Law Judge, based upon the above findings of fact and conclusions of law, decides the department erred in determining Claimant is not currently disabled for MA/Retro-MA eligibility purposes.

Accordingly, the department's decision is **REVERSED**, and it is Ordered that:

1. The department shall process Claimant's April 26, 2012, MA/Retro-MA application, and shall award him all the benefits he may be entitled to receive, as long as he meets the remaining financial and non-financial eligibility factors.

2. The department shall review Claimant's medical condition for improvement in March, 2014, unless his Social Security Administration disability status is approved by that time.
3. The department shall obtain updated medical evidence from Claimant's treating physicians, physical therapists, pain clinic notes, etc. regarding his continued treatment, progress and prognosis at review.

It is SO ORDERED.



Vicki L. Armstrong
Administrative Law Judge
for Maura D. Corrigan, Director
Department of Human Services

Date Signed: February 28, 2013

Date Mailed: February 28, 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.

Claimant 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 claimant:
 - the failure of the ALJ to address other relevant issues in the hearing decision.

2013-9546/VLA

Request must be submitted through the local DHS office or directly to MAHS by mail at
Michigan Administrative Hearings
Reconsideration/Rehearing Request
P. O. Box 30639
Lansing, Michigan 48909-07322

VLA/las

cc:

