

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

**IN THE MATTER OF:**

[REDACTED]

Reg. No.: 201319983  
Issue No.: 2009; 4031  
Case No.: [REDACTED]  
Hearing Date: April 24, 2013  
County: Grand Travers

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE:** Janice G. Spodarek

**HEARING DECISION**

This matter is before the undersigned Administrative Law Judge pursuant to MCL 400.9; and MCL 400.37 upon Claimant's request for a hearing. After due notice, an in-person hearing was held on April 24, 2013. Participants on behalf of Claimant included [REDACTED] and his authorized hearings representative [REDACTED] of Troy, Michigan. Participants on behalf of Department of Human Services (DHS) included [REDACTED], ES.

**ISSUE**

Did the Department of Human Services (DHS) properly deny Claimant's Medical Assistance (MA) and State Disability Assistance (SDA) application?

**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 10/1/12, Claimant applied for MA and SDA with the Michigan Department of Human Services (DHS).
2. Claimant applied for 1 month of retro MA.
3. On 12/12/12, the MRT denied.
4. On 12/17/12, the DHS issued notice.
5. On 12/16/12, Claimant filed a hearing request.
6. On 3/1/13, the State Hearing Review Team (SHRT) denied Claimant.

7. Claimant has an SSI application pending with the Social Security Administration (SSA).
8. Claimant is a [REDACTED]-year-old male standing 5'8 and weighing 200 pounds.
9. Claimant does not have any alcohol/drug abuse problem or history. Claimant smokes. Claimant has a nicotine addiction.
10. Claimant testified that he does not have a driver's license due to it being revoked for 3 DUIs.
11. Claimant has a [REDACTED].
12. Claimant is not currently working. Claimant last worked on 9/24/12 - just before the triggering factor for which he applied for disability. Claimant worked in production. Claimant's work history is medium exertional, unskilled, semi-skilled and skilled employment. Claimant testified that he had just begun receiving [REDACTED] as he was released from work on 2/15/13.
13. Claimant alleges disability on the basis of a fractured collar bone.
14. The 3/1/13 SHRT findings and conclusions of its decision are adopted and incorporated by reference herein/to the following extent:

Medical Summary:

[REDACTED], 2/15/12, page 109, echocardiogram: within normal limitations.

[REDACTED], 9/25/12, page 14, emergency: struck by moped with right clavicle fracture, acute multiple rib fractures and acute grade 2 liver laceration; surgery, page 23, 9/30/12, for clavicle fracture.

[REDACTED], 10/9/12, page 70, medical source opinion (MSO): off work eight weeks.

10/11/12, page 10, treating source: history of being struck by moped with reduced range of motion.

10/19/12, page 86, treating source: bilateral rib tenderness; decreased range of motion secondary to right clavicle fracture.

Analysis:

The medical evidence of record indicates that the Claimant's condition is improving/is expected to improve within 12 months from the date of onset or from the date of surgery.

The medical evidence of record indicates that the Claimant reasonable retains the capacity to perform light exertional tasks.

15. Claimant testified at the administrative hearing that he was released to work with restrictions on 2/15/13. Claimant has not lifting above the shoulder, 20 pound weight restriction. Claimant began collecting unemployment.
16. Claimant stipulated that he could work full-time in a sedentary job.

### **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 Program Administrative Manual (PAM), the Program Eligibility Manual (PEM) and the Program Reference Manual (PRM).

The State Disability Assistance (SDA) program which provides financial assistance for disabled persons is established by 2004 PA 344. The Department of Human Services (DHS or department) administers the SDA program pursuant to MCL 400.10, *et seq.*, and MAC R 400.3151-400.3180. Department policies are found in the Program Administrative Manual (PAM), the Program Eligibility Manual (PEM) and the Program Reference Manual (PRM).

Statutory authority for the SDA program states in part:

- (b) A person with a physical or mental impairment which meets federal SSI disability standards, except that the minimum duration of the disability shall be 90 days. Substance abuse alone is not defined as a basis for eligibility.

In order to receive MA benefits based upon disability or blindness, Claimant must be disabled or blind as defined in Title XVI of the Social Security Act (20 CFR 416.901). DHS, being authorized to make such disability determinations, utilizes the SSI definition of disability when making medical decisions on MA applications. MA-P (disability), also is known as Medicaid, which is a program designated to help public assistance Claimants pay their medical expenses. Michigan administers the federal Medicaid program. In assessing eligibility, Michigan utilizes the federal regulations.

Relevant federal guidelines provide in pertinent part:

"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.

The federal regulations require that several considerations be analyzed in sequential order:

...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.

The regulations require that if disability can be ruled out at any step, analysis of the next step is not required. These steps are:

1. If you are working and the work you are doing is substantial gainful activity, we will find that you are not disabled regardless of your medical condition or your age, education, and work experience. 20 CFR 416.920(b). If no, the analysis continues to Step 2.
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 416.909(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 that meets the duration requirement? If no, the analysis continues to Step 4. If yes, MA is approved. 20 CFR 416.920(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. Sections 200.00-204.00(f)?

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? This step considers the residual functional capacity, age, education, and past work experience to see if the client can do other work. If yes, the analysis ends and the client is ineligible for MA. If no, MA is approved. 20 CFR 416.920(g).

At application Claimant has the burden of proof pursuant to:

...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).

Federal regulations are very specific regarding the type of medical evidence required by Claimant to establish statutory disability. The regulations essentially require laboratory or clinical medical reports that corroborate Claimant's claims or Claimant's physicians' statements regarding disability. These regulations state in part:

...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 sure, X-rays);
- (4) Diagnosis (statement of disease or injury based on its signs and symptoms).... 20 CFR 416.913(b).

...Statements about your pain or other symptoms will not alone establish that you are disabled; there must be medical signs and laboratory findings which show that you have a medical impairment.... 20 CFR 416.929(a).

...The medical evidence...must be complete and detailed enough to allow us to make a determination about whether you are disabled or blind. 20 CFR 416.913(d).

Medical findings consist of symptoms, signs, and laboratory findings:

- (a) **Symptoms** are your own description of your physical or mental impairment. Your statements alone are not enough to establish that there is a physical or mental impairment.
- (b) **Signs** are anatomical, physiological, or psychological abnormalities which can be observed, apart from your statements (symptoms). Signs must be shown by medically acceptable clinical diagnostic techniques. Psychiatric signs are medically demonstrable phenomena which indicate specific psychological abnormalities e.g., abnormalities of behavior, mood, thought, memory, orientation, development, or perception. They must also be shown by observable facts that can be medically described and evaluated.
- (c) **Laboratory findings** are anatomical, physiological, or psychological phenomena which can be shown by the use of a medically acceptable laboratory diagnostic techniques. Some of these diagnostic techniques include chemical tests, electrophysiological studies (electrocardiogram, electroencephalogram, etc.), roentgenological studies (X-rays), and psychological tests. 20 CFR 416.928.

It must allow us to determine --

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

Information from other sources may also help us to understand how your impairment(s) affects your ability to work. 20 CFR 416.913(e).

...You can only be found disabled if you are unable 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. See 20 CFR 416.905. Your impairment must result

from anatomical, physiological, or psychological abnormalities which are demonstrable by medically acceptable clinical and laboratory diagnostic techniques....  
20 CFR 416.927(a)(1).

It is noted that Congress removed obesity from the Listing of Impairments shortly after the removal of drug addition and alcoholism. This removal reflects the view that there is a strong behavioral component to obesity. Thus, obesity in-and-of itself is not sufficient to show statutory disability.

Applying the sequential analysis herein, Claimant is not ineligible at the first step as Claimant is not currently working. 20 CFR 416.920(b). The analysis continues.

The second step of the analysis looks at a two-fold assessment of duration and severity. 20 CFR 416.920(c).

After careful review of the substantial and credible on the whole record, this ALJ finds that Claimant does not meet MA on the basis of step two of the sequential analysis. Claimant indicated that he was released from work and could work with restrictions on 2/15/13. Claimant's onset date was 9/25/12. Claimant's injury does not meet the duration requirement of 12 months or more under step 2 of the analysis. Thus, medical evidence does not support finding Claimant meets MA for statutory disability and on this portion of the issue the DHS's denial is upheld.

As noted above, Claimant need only show 90 consecutive day duration in order to meet SDA. As Claimant's injury and the point at which he was released from work exceeds 90 days, the sequential analysis will continue with regards to SDA only. The analysis continues.

The third step of the analysis looks at whether an individual meets or equals one of the Listings of Impairments. 20 CFR 416.920(d). Claimant does not. The analysis continues.

The fourth step of the analysis looks at the ability of the applicant to return to past relevant work. This step examines the physical and mental demands of the work done by Claimant in the past. 20 CFR 416.920(f).

In this case, this ALJ finds that Claimant cannot return to past relevant work on the basis of the medical evidence. The analysis continues.

The fifth and final step of the analysis applies the biographical data of the applicant to the Medical Vocational Grids to determine the residual functional capacity of the applicant to do other work. 20 CFR 416.920(g). After a careful review of the credible and substantial evidence on the whole record, this Administrative Law Judge finds that Claimant meets statutory disability for the SDA program for a close ended period on the

grounds that Claimant could not do a fully range of sedentary work pursuant to the issues and requirements found at medical vocational grid rule footnote 201.00(h).

In reaching this conclusion, it noted in the findings of facts, Claimant suffered his injury on 9/24/12. Claimant stipulated at the administrative hearing that he was released to work full-time with restrictions on 2/15/13. Claimant stipulated that he could work sedentary full-time. Thus, Claimant meets SDA eligibility from the date of application until 2/14/13. Eligibility is for close ended period only.

### **DECISION AND ORDER**

The Administrative Law Judge, based upon the above findings of fact and conclusions of law, decides:

1. Claimant does not meet statutory disability for the MA program.
2. On this portion of the issue, the DHS is partially affirmed.
3. Claimant meets SDA eligibility from the date of application until subsequently released to work on 2/15/13. On this portion of the issue, the DHS is partially reversed.

The department is ORDERED to make a determination if Claimant meets the non-medical criteria for the SDA program. If so, the department is ORDERED to open a case from the date of application and issue supplemental benefits to Claimant.

As this decision gives Claimant partial eligibility with regards to SDA for a close ended period of time, there is no review necessary.

/s/  
Janice G. Spodarek  
Administrative Law Judge  
for Maura D. Corrigan, Director  
Department of Human Services

Date Signed: 5/31/13

Date Mailed: 5/31/13

**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 mailing 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

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

JGS/tb

cc:

