

**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. 2013-55041 HHS

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 who was present and testified. ██████████, Appeals Review Officer, represented the Department. Her witness was ██████████, ASW.

**ISSUE**

Did the Department properly deny the Appellant's request for 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 chronic pain, [back ache], DDD, forearm pain. (Department's Exhibit A, p. 12 and See Testimony)
3. The Appellant's representative said that the Appellant needs help because of screws and wires in his hand – bathing his back, shaving, cleaning, cooking, laundry, etc. She said he has a lot pain but she did not dispute the ASW's observations. (See Testimony)
4. The Department's witness, ASW ██████████, testified that she observed the Appellant and determined that he needed no assistance with his ADLs based on his observed ease of movement during the in home assessment. – irrespective of the recommendations on 54A medical needs form submitted by the Appellant's physician. (See Testimony and Department's Exhibit A, pp. 2 and 12)

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, nor did he ask for any assistance with any particular ADL. He was assessed in the presence of Magalena Whiteside. (Department's Exhibit A, pages 2, 9 and 10)
6. The Department witness sent the Appellant an Adequate Negative Action Notice on ██████████, denying services. (Department's Exhibit A, pages 2, and 5)
7. The Appellant's further appeal rights were contained in the Adequate 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 professional.

### **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.
- 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.

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### **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.

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### **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.

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

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The Department witness testified that she denied the Appellant's HHS services because he did not identify a need for hands-on assistance with an ADL at a ranking of three (3) or greater. She acknowledged that the Appellant had medical issues but that he demonstrated sufficient independence and fluid motion to confirm his ability to perform all ADLs. The Appellant's witness testified that he needed some assistance bathing, grooming and eating – but did not dispute the ASW's observations on the day of in-home assessment.

The Appellant's physician recommended assistance with the ADLs of bathing, grooming and transferring for a 2-month time span. The ASW said she found that the Appellant had no transferring problems or any type of mobility issue - in addition to her observations that the Appellant did not require assistance with bathing and grooming. She said the highest she could have rated the Appellant on ADL assessment was at level two (2) a non-qualifying [supervision] ranking. New HHS eligibility policy requires hands-on assistance or a ranking of at least level three (3).

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 be eligible for HHS.

The Appellant failed to preponderate his burden of proof that the Department erred in denying his eligibility for HHS, because at the time of assessment he demonstrated no inability to perform his ADLs at a ranking of three (3) or greater.

**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 HHS.

**IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED** that:

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

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

**Docket No. 2013-55041 HHS  
Hearing Decision & Order**

cc:



Date Signed: 9/26/2013

Date Mailed: 9/26/2013

**\*\*\* 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.