

4. On March 5, 2013 Claimant submitted to the Department a timely hearing request.
5. On June 3, 2013 the State Hearing Review Team ("SHRT") found the Claimant not disabled and denied Claimant's request.
6. An Interim Order was issued October 4, 2013 and additional medical information was requested from the Claimant's treating cardiologist.
7. New evidence was provided to the State Hearing Review Team (SHRT) on January 9, 2014 and the SHRT denied disability on February 21, 2014
8. Claimant at the time of the hearing was [REDACTED] years old with a birth date of [REDACTED]. Claimant's height was 5' 6" and weighed 195 pounds.
9. Claimant completed high school.
10. Claimant has employment experience (last worked [REDACTED] sorting clothes for the [REDACTED]. Claimant also managed a self-storage business, and assisted in cleaning out spaces and office work ordering supplies. The Claimant also worked in a super market, taking orders, cashiering, and stocking food items.
11. Claimant alleges physical disabling impairments due to hypertension, with lifting restrictions, coronary artery disease with radiating heart pain and shortness of breath with stenting, leg weakness, and degenerative joint disease with radiculopathy.
12. Claimant has not alleged any mental disabling impairments.
13. Claimant's impairments have lasted or are expected to last for 12 months duration or more.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

MA-P 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 administers MA-P 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 (RFT).

Pursuant to Federal Rule 42 CFR 435.540, the Department uses the Federal Supplemental Security Income (SSI) policy in determining eligibility for disability under MA-P. Under SSI, disability is defined as:

...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.

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 are 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.

Medical evidence may contain medical opinions. Medical opinions are statements from physicians and psychologists or other acceptable medical sources that reflect judgments about the nature and severity of the impairment(s), including symptoms, diagnosis and prognosis, what an individual can do despite impairment(s), and the physical or mental restrictions. 20 CFR 416.927(a)(2).

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).

For mental disorders, severity is assessed in terms of the functional limitations imposed by the impairment. Functional limitations are assessed using the criteria in paragraph (B) of the listings for mental disorders (descriptions of restrictions of activities of daily living, social functioning; concentration, persistence or pace; and ability to tolerate increased mental demands associated with competitive work). 20 CFR, Part 404, Subpart P, Appendix 1, 12.00(C).

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.

Pursuant to 20 CFR 416.920, a five-step sequential evaluation process is used to determine disability. An individual's current work activity, the severity of the impairment, the residual functional capacity, past work, age, education and work experience are evaluated. If an individual is found disabled or not disabled at any point, no further review is made.

The first step is to determine if an individual is working and if that work is "substantial gainful activity" (SGA). If the work is SGA, an individual is not considered disabled regardless of medical condition, age or other vocational factors. 20 CFR 416.920(b).

Secondly, the individual must have a medically determinable impairment that is “severe” or a combination of impairments that is “severe.” 20 CFR 404.1520(c). An impairment or combination of impairments is “severe” within the meaning of regulations if it significantly limits an individual’s ability to perform basic work activities. An impairment or combination of impairments is “not severe” when medical and other evidence establish only a slight abnormality or a combination of slight abnormalities that would have no more than a minimal effect on an individual’s ability to work. 20 CFR 404.1521; Social Security Rulings (SSRs) 85-28, 96-3p, and 96-4p. If the claimant does not have a severe medically determinable impairment or combination of impairments, he/she is not disabled. If the claimant has a severe impairment or combination of impairments, the analysis proceeds to the third step.

The third step in the process is to assess whether the impairment or combination of impairments meets a Social Security listing. If the impairment or combination of impairments meets or is the medically equivalent of a listed impairment as set forth in Appendix 1 and meets the durational requirements of 20 CFR 404.1509, the individual is considered disabled. If it does not, the analysis proceeds to the next step.

Before considering step four of the sequential evaluation process, the trier must determine the claimant’s residual functional capacity. 20 CFR 404.1520(e). An individual’s residual functional capacity is his/her ability to do physical and mental work activities on a sustained basis despite limitations from his/her impairments. In making this finding, the trier must consider all of the claimant’s impairments, including impairments that are not severe. 20 CFR 404.1520(e) and 404.1545; SSR 96-8p.

The fourth step of the process is whether the claimant has the residual functional capacity to perform the requirements of his/her past relevant work. 20 CFR 404.1520(f). The term past relevant work means work performed (either as the claimant actually performed it or as is it generally performed in the national economy) within the last 15 years or 15 years prior to the date that disability must be established. If the claimant has the residual functional capacity to do his/her past relevant work, then the claimant is not disabled. If the claimant is unable to do any past relevant work or does not have any past relevant work, the analysis proceeds to the fifth step.

In the fifth step, an individual’s residual functional capacity is considered in determining whether disability exists. An individual’s age, education, work experience and skills are used to evaluate whether an individual has the residual functional capacity to perform work despite limitations. 20 CFR 416.920(e).

Claimant alleges physical disabling impairments due to hypertension, with lifting restrictions, coronary artery disease with radiating heart pain and shortness of breath with stenting, leg weakness, and degenerative joint disease with radiculopathy.

The Claimant has not alleged any mental disabling impairments.

A summary of the Claimant's medical evidence presented at the hearing follows.

A Medical Examination Report was completed on [REDACTED] by Claimant's internal medical treating physician who has treated the Claimant since [REDACTED]. The current diagnosis was coronary artery disease, cardiac arrhythmia, back pain and hypertension, noting on examination leg weakness and degenerative disc disease with radiculopathy. The findings were based on a reflex check and lowered motor strength testing.

The following limitations were imposed. The Claimant could lift only occasionally less than 10 pounds, and could stand or walk less than 2 hours in an 8-hour work day and sit less than 6 hours in an 8 hour work day. The Claimant could not reach or push/pull with either hand/arm. The doctor assessed the Claimant's condition as deteriorating.

A prior Medical Examination Report dated [REDACTED] by a treating physician was performed just post an acute myocardial infarction and noted the same diagnosis. The exam and limitations were essentially the same, although at that time the Claimant was noted as improving. This exam and evaluation was based on hospitalization records.

The Claimant was admitted in [REDACTED] for a 15 day stay requiring heart catheterization with stent placement due to acute myocardial infarction, cardiac arrest, hypertension and hyperlipidemia. The Claimant was discharged home stable and required to be followed closely as an outpatient.

The Claimant was hospitalized in [REDACTED] after presenting with heart pain and chest pain. The history noted coronary artery disease, with PTCA and stent placement with a bare metal stent to the circumflex. History of ventricular fibrillation arrest with CPR [REDACTED], history of 2D echo revealing EF of 50-55%. Claimant was discharged home.

Here, Claimant has satisfied requirements as set forth in steps one, two, as Claimant is not employed and has demonstrated impairments which have met the Step 2 severity requirements.

In addition, the Claimant's impairments have been examined in light of the listings and after a review of the evidence the Claimant's impairments do not meet a listing as set forth in Appendix 1, 20 CFR 416.926. Listing 4.04 Ischemic Heart Disease was reviewed and it was determined that the required severity of the listing was not met or supported by the required medical evidence. Listing 1.02, Major Dysfunction of Joint(s) Any Cause was also considered; however, the Claimant did not meet the inability to ambulate requirement. Therefore, vocational factors will be considered to determine Claimant's residual functional capacity to do relevant work.

In the present case, Claimant has been diagnosed by her treating physician with hypertension, with lifting restrictions, coronary artery disease with radiating heart pain and shortness of breath with stenting, leg weakness, and degenerative joint disease

with radiculopathy. Claimant has a number of symptoms and limitations, as cited above, as a result of these conditions

The following limitations were imposed by Claimant's treating doctor. The Claimant could lift only occasionally less than 10 pounds, and could stand or walk less than 2 hours in an 8-hour work day and sit less than 6 hours in an 8 hour work day. The Claimant could not reach or push/pull with either hand/arm. The doctor assessed the Claimant's condition as deteriorating.

Claimant credibly testified to the following symptoms and abilities: the Claimant could not walk more than one block due to shortness of breath, she could stand four hours but no longer due to back pain and knee pain and could sit for extended periods. The Claimant could lift/carry no more than 5 pounds. The Claimant testified she could not squat due to joint pain. The Claimant experiences chest pain when climbing stairs.

In the fourth step of the analysis the issue to be considered is whether the Claimant has the ability to perform work previously performed by the Claimant within the past 15 years. The trier of fact must determine whether the impairment(s) presented prevent the Claimant from doing past relevant work. In the present case, Claimant's past employment involved sorting clothes for the [REDACTED]. Claimant also managed a self-storage business, and assisted in cleaning out spaces and office work, ordering supplies. The Claimant also worked in a super market, taking orders, cashiering, and stocking food items. This last position required lifting up to 50 pounds and standing all day, and is not within the imposed restriction and based upon Claimant's credible testimony that this job could no longer be performed by her. The [REDACTED] job also required standing longer than Claimant is now capable of and required lifting and carrying clothes while sorting which functions are limited by her treating doctor as regards pushing or pulling with both hands/arms. Claimant also could not perform the job managing the self-storage facility, as part of her job required cleaning duties which she cannot perform due to her inability to lift objects of the weights required and her doctor's limitations to less than 10 pound frequently, and was consistent with her physical conditions and the medical evidence presented. This Administrative Law Judge finds, based on the medical evidence and objective, physical limitations testified by the Claimant and confirmed by her treating doctor's assessment and imposition of limitations, that Claimant is not capable of the physical activities required to perform any such position and cannot perform past relevant work., and thus a Step 5 analysis is required 20 CFR 416.920(e).

In the final step of the analysis, the trier of fact must determine if the claimant's impairment(s) prevent the claimant from doing other work. 20 CFR 416.920(f). This determination is based upon the claimant's:

1. residual functional capacity defined simply as "what can you still do despite your limitations?" 20 CFR 416.945;
2. age, education, and work experience, 20 CFR 416.963-965; and

3. the kinds of work which exist in significant numbers in the national economy which the claimant could perform despite her limitations. 20 CFR 416.966.

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. 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. 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. 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. 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).

In Step 5, an assessment of the individual's residual functional capacity and age, education, and work experience is considered to determine whether an adjustment to other work can be made. 20 CFR 416.920(4)(v). At the time of hearing, the Claimant

was ■ years old and, thus, considered to be a person of advanced age for MA-P purposes. The Claimant has a high school education and has been restricted from pushing and pulling with both arms and hands and use of both feet due to chest pain and joint pain. Disability is found if an individual is unable to adjust to other work. *Id.* At this point in the analysis, the burden shifts from the Claimant to the Department to present proof that the Claimant has the residual capacity to substantial gainful employment. 20 CFR 416.960(2); *Richardson v Sec of Health and Human Services*, 735 F2d 962, 964 (CA 6, 1984).

While a vocational expert is not required, a finding supported by substantial evidence that the individual has the vocational qualifications to perform specific jobs is needed to meet the burden. *O'Banner v Sec of Health and Human Services*, 587 F2d 321, 323 (CA 6, 1978). Medical-Vocational guidelines found at 20 CFR Subpart P, Appendix II, may be used to satisfy the burden of proving that the individual can perform specific jobs in the national economy. *Heckler v Campbell*, 461 US 458, 467 (1983); *Kirk v Secretary*, 667 F2d 524, 529 (CA 6, 1981) *cert den* 461 US 957 (1983).

The evaluations and medical opinions of a “treating” physician is “controlling” if it is well-supported by medically acceptable clinical and laboratory diagnostic techniques and are not inconsistent with the other substantial evidence in the case record. 20 CFR§ 404.1527(d)(2), Deference was given by the undersigned to objective medical testing and clinical observations of the Claimant’s treating physician. In addition, the Claimant’s evaluation by her treating physician considered her condition to be deteriorating. After a review of the entire record, including the Claimant’s testimony and medical evidence presented, and the objective medical evidence provided by the Claimant’s treating physician who places the Claimant at less than sedentary, the total impact caused by the physical impairment suffered by the Claimant must be considered. In doing so, it is found that the Claimant’s physical impairments have a major impact on her ability to perform even basic work activities. Accordingly, it is found that the Claimant is unable to perform the full range of activities for even sedentary work as defined in 20 CFR 416.967(a). After review of the entire record, and in consideration of the Claimant’s age, education, work experience and residual functional capacity, it is found that the Claimant is disabled for purposes of the MA-P program at Step 5.

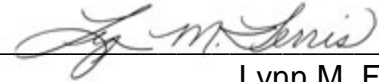
DECISION AND ORDER

The Administrative Law Judge, based upon the above findings of fact and conclusions of law, decides that Claimant is medically disabled as of September 2010.

Accordingly, the Department’s determination is REVERSED.

THE DEPARTMENT IS ORDERED TO INITIATE THE FOLLOWING, IN ACCORDANCE WITH DEPARTMENT POLICY AND CONSISTENT WITH THIS HEARING DECISION, WITHIN 10 DAYS OF THE DATE OF MAILING OF THIS DECISION AND ORDER:

1. The Department is ORDERED to initiate a review of the application dated October 16, 2012 if not done previously, to determine Claimant's non-medical eligibility.
2. A review of this case shall be set for March 2015.



Lynn M. Ferris
Administrative Law Judge
for Maura Corrigan, Director
Department of Human Services

Date Signed: March 21, 2014

Date Mailed: March 21, 2014

NOTICE OF APPEAL: The claimant 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 or Reconsideration was made, within 30 days of the receipt date of the Decision and Order of Reconsideration or Rehearing Decision.

Michigan Administrative Hearing System (MAHS) 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. MAHS 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 (60 days for FAP cases).

A Request for Rehearing or Reconsideration may be granted when one of the following exists:

- Newly discovered evidence that existed at the time of the original hearing that could affect the outcome of the original hearing decision;
- Misapplication of manual policy or law in the hearing decision which led to a wrong conclusion;
- Typographical, mathematical or other obvious error in the hearing decision that affects the rights of the client;
- Failure of the ALJ to address in the hearing decision relevant issues raised in the hearing request.

The Department, AHR or the claimant must specify all reasons for the request. MAHS will not review any response to a request for rehearing/reconsideration. A request must be *received* in MAHS within 30 days of the date the hearing decision is mailed.

The written request must be faxed to (517) 335-6088 and be labeled as follows:

Attention: MAHS Rehearing/Reconsideration Request

If submitted by mail, the written request must be addressed as follows:

Michigan Administrative Hearings
Reconsideration/Rehearing Request
P.O. Box 30639
Lansing, Michigan 48909-07322

2013-35361/LMF

LMF/cl

cc: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
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