

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

IN THE MATTER OF:

[REDACTED]

Reg. No.: 2014-31154
Issue No(s): 2001
Case No.: [REDACTED]
Hearing Date: April 16, 2014
County: Wayne (17)

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE: Zainab Baydoun

HEARING DECISION

Following Claimant's request for a hearing, this matter is before the undersigned Administrative Law Judge pursuant to MCL 400.9 and 400.37; 7 CFR 273.15 to 273.18; 42 CFR 431.200 to 431.250; 45 CFR 99.1 to 99.33; and 45 CFR 205.10. After due notice, a telephone hearing was held on April 16, 2014, from Detroit, Michigan. Participants on behalf of Claimant included Claimant's Authorized Hearing Representative, [REDACTED], from [REDACTED], [REDACTED] ([REDACTED]). A representative from the Department of Human Services (Department) did not appear for the hearing, and the hearing was held in the absence of the Department.

ISSUE

Did the Department properly process Claimant's application for Medical Assistance (MA) benefits?

FINDINGS OF FACT

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

1. On July 29, 2013, [REDACTED] submitted an application for MA benefits on behalf of Claimant. (Exhibit A)
2. On February 14, 2014, Claimant filed a hearing request, disputing the Department's actions and requesting that the Department properly process the MA application.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Department policies are contained in the Department of Human Services Bridges Administrative Manual (BAM), Department of Human Services Bridges Eligibility Manual (BEM), Department of Human Services Reference Tables Manual (RFT), and Department of Human Services Emergency Relief Manual (ERM).

The Medical Assistance (MA) program is established by the Title XIX of the Social Security Act, 42 USC 1396-1396w-5, and is implemented by 42 CFR 400.200 to 1008.59. The Department of Human Services (formerly known as the Family Independence Agency) administers the MA program pursuant to MCL 400.10 and MCL 400.105.

Additionally, when the Department receives an application for assistance, it is to be registered and processed in accordance with Department policies. The standard of promptness (SOP) begins the date the department receives an application/filing form, with minimum required information. BAM 115 (July 2013), p. 12. The Department is to certify program approval or denial of the application within 45 days and upon certification of eligibility results, the Department is to notify clients in writing of positive and negative actions by generating the appropriate notice of case action. After processing an initial application, the Department will notify clients of the approval or denial. BAM 115, pp. 13, 18; BAM 220 (July 2013), p. 1.

In this case, on July 29, 2013, L&S submitted an application for MA benefits on behalf of Claimant. (Exhibit A). The Department did not appear for the hearing; however, the Hearing Summary prepared for the hearing was read into the record. According to the Hearing Summary, the Department sent Claimant Notice of its decision on September 11, 2013, and Claimant was approved for MA under a deductible based program.

At the hearing, Claimant's AHR stated that although it received a Facility Admission Notice showing approval for MA for Claimant's July 2013, hospitalization, [REDACTED] never received any notice or communication from the Department concerning the application, or the approval for MA under a deductible based program. There was no evidence that a Notice of Case Action notifying Claimant and [REDACTED] of the Department's decision regarding the application was ever sent to Claimant or [REDACTED]. Further, Claimant's AHR stated that ongoing MA coverage was not approved for the months of August 2013 and September 2013, which were months that Claimant incurred additional medical expenses. (Exhibit B).


The Administrative Law Judge, based on the above Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, and for the reasons stated on the record, if any, finds that the Department failed to satisfy its burden of showing that it acted in accordance with Department policy when it processed Claimant's MA application.

DECISION AND ORDER

Accordingly, the Department's decision is REVERSED.

THE DEPARTMENT IS ORDERED TO BEGIN DOING 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. Register and process Claimant's July 29, 2013, application for MA, to determine Claimant's eligibility for MA benefits;
2. Process Claimant's medical expenses and apply them towards Claimant's deductible;
3. Provide Claimant with any MA coverage that she was entitled to receive but did not from July 2013, ongoing; and
4. Notify Claimant and [REDACTED] of its decision in writing.



Zainab Baydoun
Administrative Law Judge
for Maura Corrigan, Director
Department of Human Services

Date Signed: April 30, 2014

Date Mailed: April 30, 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;

2014-31154/ZB

- 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

ZB/tlf

cc:

