

**STATE OF MICHIGAN  
MICHIGAN ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING SYSTEM  
FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY HEALTH**

P.O. Box 30763, Lansing, MI 48909  
(517) 335-2484; Fax: (517) 373-4147

IN THE MATTER OF:

**Docket No.** 14-007530 HHS

██████████,

Appellant.

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**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 ██████████ Appellant appeared and testified. ██████████ appeared and testified as a witness for Appellant. ██████████, Appeals Review Officer, represented the Department of Community Health. ██████████ Independent Living Specialist, appeared and testified as a witness for the Department.

**ISSUE**

Did the Department properly determine Appellant's eligibility 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. Appellant is a █████ year-old Medicaid beneficiary who has been diagnosed with osteoarthritis, hypertension, optic atrophy, chronic open angle glaucoma, and hypertensive retinopathy. (Department Exhibit A, p 16)
2. Appellant had been receiving HHS on the basis that he required hands-on assistance with an activity of daily living(ADL), **bathing**; and the instrumental activities of daily living which include: housework, laundry, shopping, and meal preparation. (Department Exhibit A, p. 17)

3. An HHS worker completed an reassessment of Appellant at his home with the provider not present, on ██████████ and noted the following:  
  
...client reports no changes in primary physician or diagnosis and states that he has a cane and walker, but does not need it. He reports being able to dress, groom, and bathe himself and states that he is happy he can do so. The client was able to get out of the chair on his own and walk the walker to the door without assistance. He states that he needs assistance with housework, laundry, shopping, and meal preparation only. The provider reportedly comes to the home only once a week to complete the tasks. He states she will cook a lot of food and bring it to him, or he will cook himself or heat something up on his own. (Department Exhibit A, p 18)
4. The HHS worker who reassessed Appellant determined that Appellant no longer met the eligibility criteria for HHS since he did not require hands-on assistance with an ADL or at least a ranking of 3 for assistance with an ADL.
5. On ██████████, the Department sent Appellant an Advance Negative Action Notice, informing him that his HHS would be terminated. (Exhibit A, p 10)
6. On ██████████, Appellant's Hearing Request, protesting the HHS termination, was received by the Michigan Administrative Hearing System.

### **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 Social Welfare Act, 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 physician and may be provided by individuals or by private or public agencies.

Adult Services Manual (ASM) 101, 12-1-13, addresses HHS payments:

## **Payment Services Home Help**

Home help services are non-specialized personal care service activities provided under the independent living services program to persons who meet eligibility requirements.

Home help services are provided to enable individuals with functional limitation(s), resulting from a medical or physical disability or cognitive impairment to live independently and receive care in the least restrictive, preferred settings.

*Adult Services Manual (ASM) 101,  
12-1-2013*

Adult Services Manual (ASM) 105, 12-1-13, addresses HHS eligibility requirements:

### **Requirements**

Home help eligibility requirements include all of the following:

- Medicaid eligibility.
- Certification of medical need.
- Need for service, based on a complete comprehensive assessment (DHS-324) indicating a functional limitation of level 3 or greater for activities of daily living (ADL).
- Appropriate Level of Care (LOC) status.

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### **Necessity For Service**

The adult services specialist is responsible for determining the necessity and level of need for home help services based on:

- Client choice.
- A completed DHS-324, Adult Services Comprehensive Assessment. An individual must be assessed with at least one activity of daily living (ADL) in order to be eligible to receive home help services.

**Note:** If the assessment determines a need for an ADL at a level 3 or greater but these services are not paid for by the department, the individual would be eligible to receive IADL services.

**Example:** Ms. Smith is assessed at a level 4 for bathing however she refuses to receive assistance. Ms. Smith would be eligible to receive assistance with IADL's if the assessment determines a need at a level 3 or greater.

- Verification of the client's medical need by a Medicaid enrolled medical professional via the DHS-54A. The client is responsible for obtaining the medical certification of need; see ASM 115, Adult Services Requirements.

*Adult Services Manual (ASM) 105,*  
12-1-2013

Adult Services Manual (ASM 120, 12-1-2013) addresses the adult services comprehensive assessment:

## **INTRODUCTION**

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 will be entered on the computer program.

## **Requirements**

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.
  - Use the DHS-27, Authorization to Release Information, when requesting client information from another agency.
  - Use the DHS-1555, Authorization to Release Protected Health Information, if requesting additional medical documentation; see RFF 1555. The form is primarily used for APS cases.
- Follow rules of confidentiality when home help cases have companion APS cases, see SRM 131 Confidentiality.

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## **Functional Assessment**

The **Functional Assessment** module of the **ASCAP** comprehensive assessment is the basis for service planning and for the home help services payment.

Conduct a functional assessment to determine the client's ability to perform the following activities:

### Activities of Daily Living (ADL)

- Eating.
- Toileting.
- Bathing.
- Grooming.

- Dressing.
- Transferring.
- Mobility.

#### Instrumental Activities of Daily Living (IADL)

- Taking Medication.
- Meal Preparation and cleanup.
- Shopping.
- Laundry.
- Light Housework.

#### Functional Scale

ADLs and IADLs are assessed according to the following five-point scale:

1. Independent.  
Performs the activity safely with no human assistance.
2. Verbal Assistance.  
Performs the activity with verbal assistance such as reminding, guiding or encouraging.
3. Some Human Assistance.  
Performs the activity with some direct physical assistance and/or assistive technology.
4. Much Human Assistance.  
Performs the activity with a great deal of human assistance and/or assistive technology.
5. Dependent.  
Does not perform the activity even with human assistance and/or assistive technology.

Home help payments may only be authorized for needs assessed at the 3 level ranking or greater.

An individual must be assessed with at least one activity of daily living in order to be eligible to receive home help services.

**Note:** If the assessment determines a need for an ADL at a level 3 or greater but these services are not paid for by the department, the individual would be eligible to receive IADL services.

**Example:** Ms. Smith is assessed at a level 4 for bathing however she refuses to receive assistance. Ms. Smith would be eligible to receive assistance with IADLs if the assessment determined a need at a level 3 or greater.

See ASM 121, Functional Assessment Definitions and Ranks for a description of the rankings for activities of daily living and instrumental activities of daily living.

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### **Time and Task**

The specialist will allocate time for each task assessed a rank of 3 or higher, based on interviews with the client and provider, observation of the client's abilities and use of the reasonable time schedule (RTS) as a **guide**. The RTS can be found in ASCAP under the Payment module, Time and Task screen. When hours exceed the RTS rationale **must** be provided.

An assessment of need, at a ranking of 3 or higher, does not automatically guarantee the maximum allotted time allowed by the reasonable time schedule (RTS). **The specialist must assess each task according to the actual time required for its completion.**

**Example:** A client needs assistance with cutting up food. The specialist would only pay for the time required to cut the food and not the full amount of time allotted under the RTS for eating.

### IADL Maximum Allowable Hours

There are monthly maximum hour limits on all instrumental activities of daily living except medication. The limits are as follows:

- Five hours/month for shopping
- Six hours/month for light housework
- Seven hours/month for laundry
- 25 hours/month for meal preparation

### Proration of IADLs

If the client does not require the maximum allowable hours for IADLs, authorize only the amount of time needed for each task. Assessed hours for IADLs (except medications) must be prorated by **one half** in shared living arrangements where other adults reside in the home, as home help services are **only** for the benefit of the client.

**Note:** This does not include situations where others live in adjoined apartments/flats or in a separate home on shared property and there is no shared, common living area.

In shared living arrangements, where it can be **clearly** documented that IADLs for the eligible client are completed separately from others in the home, hours for IADLs do not need to be prorated.

**Example:** Client has special dietary needs and meals are prepared separately; client is incontinent of bowel and/or bladder and laundry is completed separately; client's shopping is completed separately due to special dietary needs and food is purchased from specialty stores; etc.

*Adult Services Manual (ASM) 120, 12-1-2013*

Appellant requested a hearing to protest the termination of his HHS. Appellant testified that he not only needs help with his Instrumental ADLs, but he still needs hand-on assistance with bathing, getting in and out of the tub, because of his history of bilateral knee problems due to surgeries. He also testified that he needs assistance with grooming. Appellant testified that he does not remember telling his ASW that he no longer needed help with bathing, and that he might have misunderstood what she was asking. Appellant's submitted a Medical Needs Form from his medical doctor which supports his testimony regarding his need for assistance with bathing.

Appellant's witness/provider, who was not present at the last HHS reassessment, testified that Appellant is unable to bathe himself, do laundry or clean, and Appellant uses an assistive device for walking outside of his home only.

In this case, Appellant failed to prove, by a preponderance of the evidence, that the Department improperly determined his eligibility for HHS. The HHS policy clearly states that payments may only be authorized for needs assessed at the level 3 ranking or greater. An individual must be assessed with at least one ADL in order to be eligible to receive HHS. The Department provided the necessary evidence to establish that at the time of the reassessment, the HHS worker properly determined Appellant's eligibility based on her interview with Appellant, her observation of his physical abilities, and the information provided by Appellant. Additionally, the applicable policy states clearly that the ASW is responsible for determining the necessity and level of need for HHS. Although the client's physician must certify that the client's need for services is related to an existing medical condition, the physician does not prescribe or authorize personal care services.

Appellant has the option of reapplying for HHS.

**DECISION AND ORDER**

The Administrative Law Judge, based on the above findings of fact and conclusions of law, finds that the Department properly determined Appellant's HHS eligibility.

**IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:**

The Department's decision is AFFIRMED.

*Marya A Nelson-Davis*

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Marya A. Nelson-Davis  
Administrative Law Judge  
for Nick Lyon, Director  
Michigan Department of Community Health

Date Signed: [REDACTED]

Date Mailed: [REDACTED]

MAND/db

cc: [REDACTED]

  
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**\*\*\* 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 March 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.