

**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. 14-008111 PA
Case No. ██████████

DECISION AND ORDER

This matter is before the undersigned Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) 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 without representation.

██████████, Appeals Review Officer, represented the Department of Community Health (Department). ██████████, Department Analyst, appeared as a witness for the Department.

ISSUE

Did the Department properly deny Appellant's request for prior authorization (PA) for upper and lower dentures on the grounds of insufficient information?

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.
2. On ██████ the Department received a prior authorization request from Appellant's dentist for upper and lower dentures. (Exhibit A.8)
3. Appellant's dentist indicated on the Prior Authorization Request that x-rays were included. None were received. (Exhibit A.8)
4. Policy requires the Department to have x-rays as verification prior to processing a PA request.

5. On ██████████, the Department issued a Notice of Denial for upper and lower dentures on the grounds that there was insufficient information to process Appellant's claim. (Exhibit A.6)
6. On ██████████, the Michigan Administrative Hearing System (MAHS) received Appellant's Request for Hearing.

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.

1.10 PRIOR AUTHORIZATION

Medicaid requires prior authorization (PA) to cover certain services before those services are rendered to the beneficiary. The purpose of PA is to review the medical need for certain services. . . .

Medicaid Provider Manual, (MPM)
Practitioner, April 1, 2013,¹ page 4.

Under the general policy instructions for Medicaid related dental services the MPM sets replacement schedules for denture repair and replacement:

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

Complete and partial dentures are benefits for all beneficiaries. All dentures require PA. Providers must assess the beneficiary's general oral health and provide a five-year prognosis for the prosthesis requested. An upper partial denture PA request must also include the prognosis of six sound teeth.

Radiograph Submission Requirements for Prior Authorization 6.1.G.7:

...A full mouth radiograph series must be submitted with PA requests for complete dentures in cases where beneficiaries are receiving their first denture.

¹ This edition of the MPM is identical to the version in place at the time of negative action.

Complete or partial dentures are authorized:

- If there is one or more anterior teeth missing;
- If there are less than eight posterior teeth in occlusion (fixed bridges and dentures are to be considered occluding teeth); or
- Where an existing complete or partial denture cannot be made serviceable through repair, relining, adjustment, or duplicating (rebasing) procedures. If a partial denture can be made serviceable, the dentist should provide the needed restorations to maintain use of the existing partial, extract teeth, add teeth to an existing partial, and remove hyperplastic tissue....

Reimbursement for a complete or partial denture includes all necessary adjustments, relines, repairs, and duplications within six months of insertion. This includes such services for an immediate upper denture when authorized.

If a complete or partial denture requires an adjustment, reline, repair, or duplication within six months of insertion, but the services were not provided until after six months of insertion, no additional reimbursement is allowed for these services.

Complete or partial dentures are not authorized when:

- A previous prosthesis has been provided within five years, whether or not the existing denture was obtained through Medicaid.
- An adjustment, reline, repair, or duplication will make them serviceable.
- Replacement of a complete or partial denture that has been lost or broken beyond repair is not a benefit within five years, whether or not the existing denture was obtained through Medicaid.

The facts herein are not disputed: Appellant's dentist failed to submit the x-rays. Under the MPM, Section 6.1.G.7, the Department has no authority to approve a request without proper authorization. As the required verification was lacking in this case, the Department was required to deny.

The purview of an administrative law judge (ALJ) is to review the Department's actions, and to make a determination if those actions are correct under policy and procedure. A review of the Department's law and policy as applied to the facts herein supports the action and thus, the Department's denial must be upheld.

It is noted that the Department indicated at hearing that Appellant may reapply.

DECISION AND ORDER

The Administrative Law Judge, based on the above findings of fact and conclusions of law, decides that the Department correctly denied Appellant's prior authorization request for an upper and lower dentures.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that:

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

/s/ _____

Janice Spodarek
Administrative Law Judge
for Nick Lyon, Director
Michigan Department of Community Health

JS/ [REDACTED]

cc: [REDACTED]

Date Signed: [REDACTED]

Date Mailed: [REDACTED]

***** 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.