

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. 14-011247 MCE

██████████

██████████

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 appealing the Department of Community Health (Department's) denial of an exception from Medicaid Managed Care Program enrollment.

After due notice, a hearing was held ██████████. Appellant appeared on her own behalf. ██████████ Medical Exception Specialist/MDCH/MSA appeared and testified on behalf of the Department.

ISSUE

Did the Department properly deny the Appellant's request for an exception from Managed Care Program enrollment?

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 (DOB 1 █████) Medicaid beneficiary. (Exhibit A, p. 8 and testimony).
2. The Appellant resides in ██████████ and is in the mandatory population for enrollment into a Health Michigan Plan. She is currently enrolled in ██████████. (Exhibit A, p. 1 and testimony).
3. On ██████████, the Michigan Department of Community Health Enrollment Services Section received a managed care exception request for the Appellant from primary care provider ██████████. (Exhibit A, p. 1, 8 and testimony).

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4. On [REDACTED], the request for a medical exception was denied and the Department sent the Appellant written notice that the request for a medical exception was denied. (Exhibit A, pp. 1, 9-10 and testimony).
5. On [REDACTED], the Michigan Administrative Hearing System received the Appellant's request for an administrative hearing. (Exhibit A, pp. 5-7).
6. On [REDACTED], the Appellant's request for Managed Care Exception was reviewed by MSA Chief Medical Officer, [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] agreed with the Department decision to deny the Appellant's managed care exception request. (Exhibit A, p. 1, 11).

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.

On May 30, 1997, the Department was notified of the Health Care Financing Administration's approval of its request for a waiver of certain portions of the Social Security Act to restrict Medicaid beneficiaries' choice to obtain medical services only from specified Qualified Health Plans.

Michigan Public Act 131 of 2009 states, in relevant part:

Sec. 1650 (3) The criteria for medical exceptions to HMO enrollment shall be based on submitted documentation that indicates a recipient has a serious medical condition, and is undergoing active treatment for that condition with a physician who does not participate in 1 of the HMOs. If the person meets the criteria established by this subsection, the department shall grant an exception to mandatory enrollment at least through the current prescribed course of treatment, subject to periodic review of continued eligibility.

The Medicaid Provider Manual (MPM), Beneficiary Eligibility §9.3, July 1, 2014, page 43, states:

The intent of the medical exception process is to preserve continuity of medical care for a beneficiary who is receiving active treatment for a serious medical condition from an attending physician (MD or DO) who would not be available

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to the beneficiary if the beneficiary is enrolled in a MHP. The medical exception may be granted on a time-limited basis necessary to complete treatment for the serious condition. The medical exception process is only available to a beneficiary who is not yet enrolled in a MHP, or who has been enrolled for less than two months. MHP enrollment would be delayed until one of the following occurs:

- The attending physician completes the current ongoing plan of medical treatment for the patient's serious medical condition, or
- The condition stabilizes and becomes chronic in nature, or
- The physician becomes available to the beneficiary through enrollment in a MHP.

If the treating physician can provide service through a MHP that the beneficiary can be enrolled in, then there is no basis for a medical exception to managed care enrollment.

The MPM also provides the following definitions at pp. 43-44:

Serious Medical Condition

Grave, complex, or life threatening.

Manifests symptoms needing timely intervention to prevent complications or permanent impairment.

An acute exacerbation of a chronic condition may be considered serious for the purpose of medical exception.

Chronic Medical Condition

Relatively stable.

Requires long term management.

Carries little immediate risk to health.

Fluctuates over time, but responds to well-known standard medical treatment protocols.

Active treatment

Active treatment is reviewed in regards to intensity of services when:

- The beneficiary is seen regularly, (e.g., monthly or more frequently), and
- The condition requires timely and ongoing assessment because of the severity of symptoms and/or the treatment.

Attending/Treating Physician

The physician (MD or DO) may be either a primary care doctor or a specialist whose scope of practice enables the interventions necessary to treat the serious condition.

MHP Participating Physician

A physician is considered participating in a MHP if he is in the MHP provider network or is available on an out-of-network basis with one of the MHPs with which the beneficiary can be enrolled. The physician may not have a contract with the MHP but may have a referral arrangement to treat the plan's enrollees. If the physician can treat the beneficiary and receive payment from the plan, then the beneficiary would be enrolled in that plan and no medical exception would be allowed.

The undisputed evidence shows that the medical exception request for Appellant was from [REDACTED], Appellant's primary care physician who works with both [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. The denial stated that because [REDACTED] works with both [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] [REDACTED] plans that the Appellant could enroll in, and the information submitted by the doctor on the medical exception request described standard treatment of ongoing chronic medical conditions with visits every [REDACTED] months, it did not describe the active treatment of a serious medical condition that would allow for a time limited medical exception. Furthermore, [REDACTED], MSA Chief Medical Officer, reviewed the matter and agreed with the denial of the medical exception for the reasons set forth in the [REDACTED] denial letter. Accordingly, the Appellant did not meet the criteria for an exception.

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The Appellant did not contest the Department's evidence concerning the fact that the provider who filed for the exception participates with [REDACTED] health plans available to the Appellant. The uncontested, material evidence of record does not establish that the Appellant satisfies all the Department criteria to be granted a medical exception. Furthermore, [REDACTED] works for [REDACTED] that the Appellant is enrolled in. Therefore the Department properly concluded that the Appellant was not eligible for an exception from managed care.

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 request for an exception from managed care.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that:

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

William D Bond

William D. Bond
Administrative Law Judge
for Nick Lyon, Director
Michigan Department of Community Health

Date Signed: [REDACTED]

Date Mailed: [REDACTED]

WDB/db

cc: [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.