

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

IN THE MATTER OF:



Reg. No.: 14-013058
Issue No.: MEDICAID - ELIGIBILITY
Case No.: [REDACTED]
Hearing Date: January 21, 2015
County: LAPEER

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE: Colleen Lack

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 January 21, 2015, from Lansing, Michigan. Participants on behalf of Claimant included [REDACTED]. Participants on behalf of the Department of Human Services (Department) included [REDACTED], Eligibility Specialist and Hearing Facilitator.

ISSUE

Did the Department properly close Claimant's Medicaid (MA) case based on a failure to comply with the verification requirements?

FINDINGS OF FACT

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

1. Claimant's children were MA beneficiaries.
2. On July 15, 2014, a Redetermination form was issued to Claimant with a due date of August 1, 2014, to return the completed form.
3. Claimant did not return the Redetermination form.
4. On September 19, 2014, a Health Care Coverage Determination Notice was issued to Claimant stating the MA case would close effective October 1, 2014, because the Redetermination form was not returned.
5. On September 26, 2014, Claimant filed a request for hearing contesting the Department's action.

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 Title XIX of the Social Security Act, 42 USC 1396-1396w-5; 42 USC 1315; the Affordable Care Act of 2010, the collective term for the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, Pub. L. No. 111-148, as amended by the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010, Pub. L. No. 111-152; and 42 CFR 430.10-.25. The Department (formerly known as the Family Independence Agency) administers the MA program pursuant to 42 CFR 435, MCL 400.10, and MCL 400.105-.112k.

The Department of Human Services must periodically redetermine or renew an individual's eligibility for active programs. The redetermination process includes thorough review of all eligibility factors. Redetermination, semi-annual and mid-certification forms are often used to redetermine eligibility of active programs. BAM 210, 7-1-2014, p. 1.

A Claimant must cooperate with the local office in determining initial and ongoing eligibility, including completion of necessary forms, and must completely and truthfully answer all questions on forms and in interviews. BAM 105, 4-1-2014, p. 6.

Verification is usually required upon application or redetermination and for a reported change affecting eligibility or benefit level. Verifications are considered timely if received by the date they are due. The Department must allow a client 10 calendar days (or other time limit specified in policy) to provide the requested verification. The Department worker must tell the client what verification is required, how to obtain it, and the due date. The client must obtain required verification, but the Department must assist if they needs and requests help. If neither the client nor the local office can obtain verification despite a reasonable effort, the Department worker should use the best available information. If no evidence is available, the Department worker is to use their best judgment. The Department is to send a negative action notice when the client indicates refusal to provide a verification, or the time period given has elapsed and the client has not made a reasonable effort to provide it. BAM 130, 7-1-2014, pp. 1-6.

For MA, benefits stop at the end of the benefit period unless a renewal is completed and a new benefit period is certified. BAM 220, p. 2.

In this case, Claimant's MA case was due for Redetermination. On July 15, 2014, a Redetermination form was issued to Claimant with a due date of August 1, 2014, to return the completed form. The Department witness testified that the Redetermination Form was not returned and the Department worker was not contacted by Claimant until

after the MA case closed. Accordingly, on September 19, 2014, a Health Care Coverage Determination Notice was issued to Claimant stating the MA case would close effective October 1, 2014, because the Redetermination form was not returned.

Claimant confirmed that address on the Redetermination form was correct, but testified she never received this form in the mail. Claimant described her history of trouble receiving mail. If the normal mail carrier is out and there is a substitute mail carrier, mail is often not delivered to the correct address. Claimant has received mail for other addresses, as far away as 4-5 blocks. Claimant has also received mail weeks to months late.

Claimant's testimony indicated she never received the Redetermination form mailed to her. However, the BAM 220 policy specifies that for MA, benefits stop at the end of the benefit period unless a renewal is completed and a new benefit period is certified. BAM 220, p. 2. Accordingly, the MA case had to close at the end of the prior benefit period because the Redetermination was not completed to certify a new benefit period.

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 acted in accordance with Department policy when it closed Claimant's MA case based on a failure to comply with the verification requirements.

DECISION AND ORDER

Accordingly, the Department's decision is **AFFIRMED**.



Colleen Lack
Administrative Law Judge
for Nick Lyon, Interim Director
Department of Human Services

Date Signed: **2/10/2015**

Date Mailed: **2/10/2015**

CL/hj

NOTICE OF APPEAL: A party may appeal this Hearing Decision in the circuit court in the county in which he/she resides, or the circuit court in Ingham County, within 30 days of the receipt date.

A party may request a rehearing or reconsideration of this Hearing Decision from the Michigan Administrative Hearing System (MAHS) within 30 days of the mailing date of this Hearing Decision, or MAHS **MAY** order a rehearing or reconsideration on its own motion.

MAHS **MAY** grant a party's Request for Rehearing or Reconsideration 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 party requesting a rehearing or reconsideration 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 this Hearing Decision is mailed.

A written request may be faxed or mailed to MAHS. If submitted by fax, 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 48909-8139

CC:

