

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

IN THE MATTER OF:

[REDACTED]

Reg. No.: 2014-24165
Issue No(s): 2002, 2003
Case No.: [REDACTED]
Hearing Date: February 27, 2014
County: Ingham County DHS

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 February 27, 2014, from Lansing, Michigan. Participants on behalf of Claimant included [REDACTED] [REDACTED] the Claimant. Participants on behalf of the Department of Human Services (Department) included [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Eligibility Specialist.

ISSUE

Did the Department properly close Claimant's Medical Assistance (MA) cases based on a failure to comply with 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 Transitional Medicaid (TMA) cases were due for Redetermination in November 2013.
2. On January 18, 2014, a Notice of Case Action was issued to Claimant stating the TMA cases would close effective February 1, 2014 based on a failure to return the Redetermination.
3. On January 23, 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 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, 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.

Verification is usually required upon application or redetermination and for a reported change affecting eligibility or benefit level as well as when information regarding an eligibility factor is unclear, inconsistent, incomplete or contradictory. 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 the client needs and requests help. For MA, if the client cannot provide the verification despite a reasonable effort, the time limit can be extended up to three times. If neither the client nor the Department 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 case action notice when the client indicates refusal to provide a verification, or the time period given has elapsed. BAM 130.

A complete redetermination is required at least every 12 months¹. Bridges sets the redetermination date according to benefit periods. Benefits stop at the end of the benefit period unless a redetermination is completed and a new benefit period is certified. Also, the redetermination month is 12 months from the date the most recent complete application was submitted. BAM 210

A redetermination packet is considered complete when all of the sections of the redetermination form including the signature section are completed. If a client files an application for redetermination before the end of the benefit period, but fails to take a required action, the case is denied at the end of the benefit period. BAM 210.

In this case, the Claimant's TMA cases were due for Redetermination in November 2013. The Eligibility Specialist testified the cases were not marked for closure until January 2014. The Eligibility Specialist has spoken with Claimant, who reported she had emailed the Redetermination form and verifications to the prior worker. However, there is no record of this in Claimant's electronic case file. Accordingly, Claimant was encouraged to re-apply for Medicaid. The Eligibility Specialist testified that all family

¹ There are a few MA group types for which a redetermination is not required. See BAM 210.

members were approved on January 28, 2014, but there is an error with the computer system interface regarding immigration documentation for Claimant's group that resulted in only Emergency Services Only (ESO) Medicaid being approved. The Department is working to correct this so the Claimant's group will have the proper type of Medicaid.

Claimant testified she emailed the Redetermination and verifications to the prior MA case worker, but acknowledged she does not have any documentation of this. Claimant explained she was told not to keep copies of emails that contain personal information like social security numbers. Claimant testified she would be satisfied and there would be no need to proceed with the hearing if the Department gives them back Medicaid.


The scope of this hearing is limited to only reviewing the action(s) taken by the Department at the time the request for hearing was submitted. In this case the TMA closure based on the Redetermination not being returned was the action taken by the Department at the time of Claimant's Appeal. This ALJ cannot issue any orders addressing the error with the approval of Claimant's recent MA application as part of this appeal. If the issue(s) with the January 28, 2014 MA approval are not resolved, Claimant may wish to file another request for hearing within 90 days of the date that approval notice was issued.

Claimant has acknowledged she does not have any documentation proving she emailed the Redetermination and verifications to the prior case worker. Accordingly, the determination to close the prior TMA cases based on the failure to return the Redetermination is upheld.

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 cases based on a failure to comply with verification requirements.

DECISION AND ORDER

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



Colleen Lack
Administrative Law Judge
for Maura Corrigan, Director
Department of Human Services

Date Signed: March 19, 2014

Date Mailed: March 19, 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;
- 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

CL/hj

cc:

