

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

IN THE MATTER OF:



Reg. No.: 2014-28368
Issue No(s).: 2002, 2003
Case No.: [REDACTED]
Hearing Date: March 27, 2014
County: Allegan 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 March 27, 2014, from Lansing, Michigan. Participants on behalf of Claimant included [REDACTED], the Claimant. Participants on behalf of the Department of Human Services (Department) included [REDACTED], Payments Supervisor, and [REDACTED], Eligibility Specialist.

ISSUE

Did the Department properly close Claimant's husband's Medical Assistance (MA) case 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 husband's Medicaid case was due for Redetermination in November 2013.
2. On October 15, 2013, a Redetermination form was sent to the Claimant with a due date of November 1, 2013 for returning the completed form with proofs.
3. On November 16, 2013, , a Notice of Case Action was sent to the Claimant stating her husband's Medicaid case would close effective December 1, 2013, because the Redetermination form and/or verifications were not provided.
4. On February 11, 2014, the 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.

¹ There are a few MA group types for which a redetermination is not required: Special N/Support, Title IV-E recipients, Special needs adoption assistance recipients, department wards and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) recipients. BAM 210.

In this case, Claimant's husband's MA case was due for Redetermination in November 2013. On October 15, 2013, a Redetermination form was sent to the Claimant with a due date of November 1, 2013 for returning the completed form with proofs. It is noted that the Redetermination form does not specify that the Redetermination is for Claimant's husband's Medicaid case. (Exhibit A, pages 8-11) On November 16, 2013, a Notice of Case Action was sent to the Claimant stating her husband's Medicaid case would close effective December 1, 2013, because the Redetermination form and/or verifications were not provided.

Claimant testified that previously she also had a Medicaid case herself. Claimant stated her Medicaid case had already been closed out when she received the October 15, 2013 Redetermination form in the mail. Therefore, Claimant called the Department to see if she needed to fill anything out for a Redetermination since her case was already closed. Claimant credibly testified she was told by the Department that she did not have to fill out anything because her case was already closed. Claimant noted her husband is on disability and needs the Medicaid.

It was uncontested that the Redetermination form was returned to the Department on December 2, 2013, but by then Claimant's husband's Medicaid case had already closed.

The evidence is not clear what type of Social Security disability benefits Claimant's husband receives. If Claimant's husband receives Supplemental Security Income (SSI) disability benefits BAM 210 policy states no MA redetermination is required.

Further, the Redetermination form was issued to Claimant and states "it is time to review **your** eligibility for the following program(s): Medicaid." (Exhibit A, page 8, emphasis added by ALJ) Claimant credibly testified she called the Department to inquire about the Redetermination form issued to her and was told she did not have to fill out anything because her case was already closed. Unfortunately, it appears that because Claimant's husband's Medicaid had been put on under Claimant's case number, and the Redetermination form does not specify whose Medicaid case was due for review, nobody realized the October 15, 2013 Redetermination was actually for Claimant's husband's Medicaid case. Accordingly, the evidence is not sufficient to find the Department properly requested verification(s) from the client, Claimant's husband, for the required Redetermination of his Medicaid case.

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 failed to satisfy its burden of showing that it acted in accordance with Department policy when it closed Claimant's husband's Medical Assistance (MA) case based on a failure to comply with verification requirements.

DECISION AND ORDER

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

THE DEPARTMENT IS ORDERED TO BEGIN DOING THE FOLLOWING, IN ACCORDANCE WITH DEPARTMENT POLICY AND CONSISTENT WITH THIS HEARING DECISION, WITHIN 10 DAYS OF THE DATE OF MAILING OF THIS DECISION AND ORDER:

1. Re-instate Claimant's husband's Medicaid case retroactive to the December 1, 2013 due date and re-determine Claimant's husband's eligibility for Medicaid, to include requesting any verification(s) still needed, in accordance with Department policy.
2. Issue written notice of any case actions in accordance with Department policy.



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

Date Signed: April 9, 2014

Date Mailed: April 9, 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:

201428368/CL

Michigan Administrative Hearings
Reconsideration/Rehearing Request
P.O. Box 30639
Lansing, Michigan 48909-07322

CL/hj

cc:

