

**STATE OF MICHIGAN
MICHIGAN ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING SYSTEM
FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY HEALTH**

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IN THE MATTER OF:

██████████,

Appellant.

Docket No. 2014-35909 HHS

Case No. ██████████

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.

After due notice, a hearing was held on ██████████. Attorney ██████████ appeared on behalf of the Appellant. The Appellant offered testimony on his own behalf. ██████████ ██████████, Appeals Review Officer, represented the Department of Community Health (Department). ██████████ ██████████, Adult Services Worker (ASW), appeared as a witness for the Department.

ISSUE

Did the Department properly deny the Appellant's Home Help Services (HHS) request?

FINDINGS OF FACT

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

1. On or around ██████████, the Appellant requested HHS. (Exhibit A, p. 11; Testimony)
2. On ██████████, the ASW conducted an in home assessment. The ASW covered all the activities of daily living (ADL's) and instrumental activities of daily living (IADL's) with the Appellant and the Appellant's brother. The Appellant indicated he suffered from lower lumbar issues, arthritis and hearing loss and needed assistance with light cleaning and bathing. The ASW observed the Appellant ambulating within the home independently with an unpronged cane. During the assessment, the ASW asked the Appellant's brother to demonstrate how he assisted the Appellant with the task of bathing. The brother proceeded to grab the Appellant's arm and place it on the wall and then proceeded to lift one of the Appellant's legs and place it in the bath. Once in the bath, the Appellant seated himself inside of the bath. (Exhibit A, p. 19; Testimony)

3. During the assessment on ██████████, the Appellant indicated he used a shower bench. The bench was shown to the ASW. The bench was a bar stool with metal legs, rubber feet and a cloth top. The ASW was of the opinion that the bench was not used in the shower as there were no water marks, water stains etc. (Exhibit A, p. 19; Testimony)
4. On ██████████, the Department sent the Appellant an Adequate Negative Action Notice. The notice indicated the Appellant was being denied HHS due to the Appellant not having a ranking of 3 or higher for a single ADL. (Exhibit A, pp. 6-8; Testimony)
5. On ██████████, the Michigan Administrative Hearings System (MAHS) received a request for hearing from the Appellant. (Exhibit A, p. 4)

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.

HHS are provided to enable functionally limited individuals to live independently and receive care in the least restrictive, preferred settings. These activities must be certified by a physician and may be provided by individuals or by private or public agencies.

Adult Services Manual (ASM) 101, 11-1-11, addresses HHS payments:

Payment Services Home Help

Home help services are non-specialized personal care service activities provided under the independent living services program to persons who meet eligibility requirements.

Home help services are provided to enable individuals with functional limitation(s), resulting from a medical or physical disability or cognitive impairment to live independently and receive care in the least restrictive, preferred settings.

*Adult Services Manual (ASM) 101,
12/1/2013, Page 2 of 5.*

Adult Services Manual (ASM) 105, 11-1-11, addresses HHS eligibility requirements:

Requirements

Home help eligibility requirements include all of the following:

- Medicaid eligibility.
- Certification of medical need.
- Need for service, based on a complete comprehensive assessment (DHS-324) indicating a functional limitation of level 3 or greater for activities of daily living (ADL).
- Appropriate Level of Care (LOC) status.

Necessity For Service

The adult services specialist is responsible for determining the necessity and level of need for home help services based on:

- Client choice.
- A completed DHS-324, Adult Services Comprehensive Assessment. An individual must be assessed with at least one activity of daily living (ADL) in order to be eligible to receive home help services.

Note: If the assessment determines a need for an ADL at a level 3 or greater but these services are not paid for by the department, the individual would be eligible to receive IADL services.

Example: Ms. Smith is assessed at a level 4 for bathing however she refuses to receive assistance. Ms. Smith would be eligible to receive assistance with IADL's if the assessment determines a need at a level 3 or greater.

- Verification of the client's medical need by a Medicaid enrolled medical professional via the DHS-54A. The client is responsible for obtaining the medical certification of need; see ASM 115, Adult Services Requirements.

*Adult Services Manual (ASM) 105,
11-1-2011, Pages 1-3 of 3*

Adult Services Manual (ASM 120, 5-1-2012), pages 1-4 of 5 addresses the adult services comprehensive assessment:

INTRODUCTION

The DHS-324, Adult Services Comprehensive Assessment is the primary tool for determining need for services. The comprehensive assessment must be completed on **all open independent living services cases**. ASCAP, the automated workload management system, provides the format for the comprehensive assessment and all information will be entered on the computer program.

Requirements

Requirements for the comprehensive assessment include, but are not limited to:

- A comprehensive assessment will be completed on all new cases.
- A face-to-face contact is required with the client in his/her place of residence.
- The assessment may also include an interview with the individual who will be providing home help services.
- A new face-to-face assessment is required if there is a request for an increase in services before payment is authorized.
- A face-to-face assessment is required on all transfer-in cases before a payment is authorized.
- The assessment must be updated as often as necessary, but minimally at the six month review and annual redetermination.
- A release of information must be obtained when requesting documentation from confidential sources and/or sharing information from the department record.
 - Use the DHS-27, Authorization to Release Information, when requesting client information from another agency.
 - Use the DHS-1555, Authorization to Release Protected Health Information, if requesting additional medical documentation; see RFF 1555. The form is primarily used for APS cases.
- Follow rules of confidentiality when home help cases have companion APS cases, see SRM 131 Confidentiality.

Functional Assessment

The **Functional Assessment** module of the **ASCAP** comprehensive assessment is the basis for service planning and for the home help services payment.

Conduct a functional assessment to determine the client's ability to perform the following activities:

Activities of Daily Living (ADL)

- Eating.
- Toileting.
- Bathing.
- Grooming.
- Dressing.
- Transferring.
- Mobility.

Instrumental Activities of Daily Living (IADL)

- Taking Medication.
- Meal Preparation and cleanup.
- Shopping.
- Laundry.
- Light Housework.

Functional Scale

ADLs and IADLs are assessed according to the following five-point scale:

1. Independent.
Performs the activity safely with no human assistance.
2. Verbal Assistance.
Performs the activity with verbal assistance such as reminding, guiding or encouraging.
3. Some Human Assistance.
Performs the activity with some direct physical assistance and/or assistive technology.
4. Much Human Assistance.
Performs the activity with a great deal of human assistance and/or assistive technology.
5. Dependent.

Does not perform the activity even with human assistance and/or assistive technology.

Home help payments may only be authorized for needs assessed at the 3 level ranking or greater.

An individual must be assessed with at least one activity of daily living in order to be eligible to receive home help services.

Note: If the assessment determines a need for an ADL at a level 3 or greater but these services are not paid for by the department, the individual would be eligible to receive IADL services.

Example: Ms. Smith is assessed at a level 4 for bathing however she refuses to receive assistance. Ms. Smith would be eligible to receive assistance with IADLs if the assessment determined a need at a level 3 or greater.

See ASM 121, Functional Assessment Definitions and Ranks for a description of the rankings for activities of daily living and instrumental activities of daily living.

Time and Task

The specialist will allocate time for each task assessed a rank of 3 or higher, based on interviews with the client and provider, observation of the client's abilities and use of the reasonable time schedule (RTS) as a **guide**. The RTS can be found in ASCAP under the Payment module, Time and Task screen. When hours exceed the RTS rationale **must** be provided.

An assessment of need, at a ranking of 3 or higher, does not automatically guarantee the maximum allotted time allowed by the reasonable time schedule (RTS). **The specialist must assess each task according to the actual time required for its completion.**

Example: A client needs assistance with cutting up food. The specialist would only pay for the time required to cut the food and not the full amount of time allotted under the RTS for eating.

IADL Maximum Allowable Hours

There are monthly maximum hour limits on all instrumental activities of daily living except medication. The limits are as follows:

- Five hours/month for shopping
- Six hours/month for light housework
- Seven hours/month for laundry
- 25 hours/month for meal preparation

Proration of IADLs

If the client does not require the maximum allowable hours for IADLs, authorize only the amount of time needed for each task. Assessed hours for IADLs (except medications) must be prorated by **one half** in shared living arrangements where other adults reside in the home, as home help services are **only** for the benefit of the client.

Note: This does not include situations where others live in adjoining apartments/flats or in a separate home on shared property and there is no shared, common living area.

In shared living arrangements, where it can be **clearly** documented that IADLs for the eligible client are completed separately from others in the home, hours for IADLs do not need to be prorated.

Example: Client has special dietary needs and meals are prepared separately; client is incontinent of bowel and/or bladder and laundry is completed separately; client's shopping is completed separately due to special dietary needs and food is purchased from specialty stores; etc.

*Adult Services Manual (ASM) 120, 5-1-2012,
Pages 1-5 of 5*

The ASW testified that on ██████████, she met with the Appellant and conducted a HHS assessment. The ASW indicated she reviewed all of the ADL's and IADL's with the Appellant. The ASW concluded following the assessment that the Appellant was not eligible for HHS as the Appellant was observed being mobile within the home and was of the impression that the bathing demonstration was a production.

The Appellant testified he needed assistance with bathing and housework. In doing so, the Appellant argued he needed assistance with bathing due to his health conditions. Some of the Appellant's testimony was troublesome. The bar stool was not a device that is normally or regularly used in a bath/shower. The Appellant testified he sits on

the bar stool in the shower, yet in the demonstration, sat himself on the bath tub floor. The Appellant testified, the stool was approximately 5 feet tall and the bath walls were approximately 3 feet tall. Even if the stool was 4 feet tall, it was not very clear as to how he bathed himself given his own description of medical ailments. Furthermore, the use of a bar stool for bathing doesn't seem or appear to be very hygienic. And given the length of time, the Appellant alleges to have used the bar stool as an aid (used over a year at least 2 to 3 times a day), there most assuredly would be signs of wear and tear from the water and other cleansers. And lastly, the records of the Department and testimony of the ASW indicate the Appellant had not received paid hands on assistance for bathing in the past as argued by the Appellant. For the previously mentioned reasons, I do not find that the Appellant is being fully honest regarding the need for bathing assistance. More or less, it appears, the Appellant is trying to tie together a need for hands on assistance with an ADL in order to qualify for HHS.

The remaining areas of need are in relation to Instrumental Activities of Daily Living. The need for assistance in these areas does not by themselves meet the HHS requirements for eligibility. HHS requires that at least one ADL have a ranking of 3 or higher. And in this case, there is no ADL that meets this requirement.


Based on the evidence presented, Appellant has failed to prove, by a preponderance of evidence, that the denial of HHS was inappropriate. As such, the evidence was not sufficient to establish that Appellant had a need for hands on assistance, functional ranking 3 or greater, with at least one ADL, based on the information available to the ASW when they denied the Appellant's HHS request. Accordingly, the HHS denial is affirmed.

DECISION AND ORDER

The Administrative Law Judge, based on the above findings of fact and conclusions of law, finds that, based on the available information, the Department properly denied the Appellant's HHS request.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:

The Department's decision is AFFIRMED.



Corey A. Arendt
Administrative Law Judge
for James K. Haveman, Director
Michigan Department of Community Health

**Docket No. 2014-35909 HHS
Decision and Order**

cc:



Date Signed: 

Date Mailed: 

***** 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 March 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.