

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

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IN THE MATTER OF:

██████████

Appellant

Docket No. 2014-5874 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, an in-person hearing was held on ██████████ at the ██████████ County DHS in ██████████, Michigan. Appellant personally appeared and testified. Appellant was represented by ██████████ from ██████████, Home Care Services provider subcontractor with the State of Michigan. ██████████ appeared as a witness on behalf of Appellant.

██████████, Appeals Review Officer, represented the Department. ██████████, Adult Services Worker ("ASW"), and ██████████, Adult Services Supervisor, appeared as witnesses for the Department.

ISSUE

Did the Department properly close the Appellant's Home Help Services ("HHS") case on the grounds that Appellant no longer had an activity of daily living (ADL) rating of 3 or more at review?

FINDINGS OF FACT

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

1. At all relevant times, Appellant has been and continues to be beneficiary of the Medicaid Program administered by the State of Michigan. Appellant is a beneficiary of the SSI program. Appellant is a ██████ year old female.
2. Appellant's medical impairments include Type 2 diabetes, arthritis, high blood pressure, COPD, nicotine addiction, Lumbar degenerative disc disease, spondylosis. (Exhibit A.13)
3. Appellant was previous approved based on a level 3 for bathing, along with other IADLs. (Exhibit A.14)

4. On ██████████ the Department conducted an in-person review. Appellant moved into a motel where "...the clerk confirmed that the motel ...provided weekly linen changes, vacuuming, cleaning of the bathroom, etc." (Exhibit A.16) The ASW completed a DHS report sheet indicating that Appellant "...stated that she bathed independently, but preferred to have someone present when she bathed..." (Exhibit A.17)
5. The Department submitted evidence of a ██████████ ██████████ Client Weekly Care Chart from the provider indicated that no personal care was being provided and only 2 meals for the month of ██████████. (Exhibit A.19)
6. Documentation by the ASW indicates that Appellant stated "...that she uses a shower chair, although she currently doesn't have one." (Exhibit A.18)
7. Documentation by the ASW indicates that Appellant is able to use the microwave, does frozen foods, and has a breakfast drink. (Exhibit A.14)
8. Appellant testified that the day of the review "was a good day; I have good and bad days." (Testimony)
9. The ASW did not observe that Appellant needed any assistance with ADLs. (Exhibit A.45)
10. On ██████████ the Department issued an Advance Negative Action Notice informed Appellant that her HHS case will close effective ██████████ due to DHS policy that requires the need for hands-on services of at least one activity of daily living (ADL) in order to keep a case open. (Exhibit A. 9)
11. On ██████████, Appellant filed a Hearing Request. Appellant's case closed; the last payment issued was ██████████.

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.

Home Help Services (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) 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.

*****Medical Need Certification**

Medical needs are certified utilizing the DHS-54A, Medical Needs form and must be completed by a Medicaid enrolled medical professional. Completed DHS-54A or veterans administration medical forms are acceptable for individual treated by a VA physician; see ASM 115, Adult Services Requirements.

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 2-3 of 3*

Adult Services Manual (ASM) 120, 5-1-12, addresses the 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 must 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 IADL's 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.

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) 101, 11-1-11, addresses services not covered by HHS:

Services not Covered by Home Help

Home help services must **not** be approved for the following:

- Supervising, monitoring, reminding, guiding, teaching or encouraging (functional assessment rank 2).
- Services provided for the benefit of others.
- Services for which a responsible relative is **able** and **available** to provide (such as house cleaning, laundry or shopping).
- Services provided by another resource at the same time (for example, hospitalization, MI-Choice Waiver).
- Transportation - See Bridges Administrative Manual (BAM) 825 for medical transportation policy and procedures.
- Money management such as power of attorney or representative payee.
- Home delivered meals.
- Adult or child day care.
- Recreational activities. (For example, accompanying and/or transporting to the movies, sporting events etc.)

Note: The above list is not all inclusive.

*Adult Services Manual (ASM) 101, 11-1-2011,
Pages 3-4 of 4.*

In the present case, the Department contends that it was required under policy and procedure to close Appellant's case as there were no documented ADLs. Appellant argues that in fact she has needs for ADLs, and that the day the ASW observed Appellant was a "good day."

The Department's case is supported by documentation from observations on ██████████. The Department's evidence includes statements made by Appellant regarding no need for hand-on assistance with bathing. As noted by the Department, Appellant does not have a shower chair. In addition, the Department submitted chore chart sheets for the month of ██████████ that did not document any care given to Appellant for ADLs.

Appellant argued that the care giver was not familiar with HHS documentation as that care giver normally provides waiver services. Appellant further argues that "it was a good day."

The purview of an administrative law judge (ALJ) at an administrative hearing is to make a determination as to whether the Department acted correctly under its policy and procedure at the time the Department made its determination, and, to ensure that the determination is not contrary to law.

In this case, taking into account the entire evidence presented at hearing, this ALJ finds that there is credible and substantial evidence on the record supports the closure action taken by the Department. While Appellant argues that it was “a good day,” the ASW did not observe specific ADLs needs. This observation is corroborated by the [REDACTED] chore sheets, and, some of Appellant’s own statements such as not having a shower seat and thus, not having any ADL needs.

The law requires the ALJ to rule based on the evidence available at the time the Department took its action. Thus, the Department’s action, as it is supported by the credible and substantial evidence, must be upheld. Appellant understands that she may reapply.

DECISION AND ORDER

The Administrative Law Judge, based on the above findings of fact and conclusions of law, finds that the Department properly closed Appellant’s HHS case.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:

The Department’s decision is AFFIRMED.

/s/
Janice Spodarek
Administrative Law Judge
for James K. Haveman, Director
Michigan Department of Community Health

[REDACTED]
cc:

[REDACTED]

Date Signed: 1/16/2014

Date Mailed: 1/21/2014

Docket No. 2014-5874 HHS
Decision and Order

***** 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.