

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

P.O. Box 30763, Lansing, MI 48909
(877) 833-0870; Fax: (517) 373-4147

IN THE MATTER OF:

Docket No. 14-016927 HHS

██████████

██████████.

██████████

Appellant

_____ /

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 ██████████. Appellant appeared and testified on her own behalf. ██████████, Appeals Review Officer, represented the Department of Community Health (MDCH or the Department). ██████████ Adult Services Worker (ASW) appeared as a witness for the Department.

ISSUE

Did the Department properly deny payment for Appellant's Home Help Services ("HHS") because Appellant failed to meet her Medicaid spend-down?

FINDINGS OF FACT

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

1. Appellant was a Medicaid recipient who was receiving HHS.
2. Appellant had Medicaid with a monthly spend-down, which the department determined that she did not meet.
3. Department policy requires Medicaid eligibility in order to receive HHS, and clients with a monthly spend-down are not eligible until they have met their spend-down obligation. (Adult Services Manual (ASM) 105, ██████████, pages 1-2 of 3)
4. The Department's ASW found no evidence that Appellant had met her spend-down. (Testimony)

5. On [REDACTED], the department sent Appellant an Advance Negative Action notice informing her that her HHS would be terminated as the Appellant had a monthly spend-down which had not been met since [REDACTED] and payments had not been made to a provider since [REDACTED].
6. On [REDACTED], the Appellant's Request for Hearing was received by the Michigan Administrative hearing System.

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.

The Adult Services Manual (ASM) addresses eligibility for Home Help Services:

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.

Medicaid/Medical Aid (MA)

The client may be eligible for MA under one of the following:

- All requirements for Medicaid have been met.
- MA deductible obligation has been met.

The client must have a scope of coverage of either:

- 1F or 2F.
- 1D or 1K (Freedom to Work).
- 1T (Healthy Kids Expansion).

Clients with a scope of coverage 20, 2C or 2B are **not** eligible for Medicaid until they have met their MA deductible obligation.

Note: A change in the scope of coverage in Bridges will generate a system tickler in ASCAP for active services cases.

Medicaid Personal Care Option

Clients in need of home help personal care services may become eligible for MA under the Medicaid personal care option.

Discuss this option with the client and coordinate implementation with the eligibility specialist.

Conditions of eligibility:

- The client meets all Medicaid eligibility factors except income.
- An independent living services case is open.
- The client is eligible for home help services.
- The cost of personal care services is **more** than the MA excess income amount.

If **all** the above conditions have been satisfied, the client has met MA deductible requirements. The adult services specialist can apply the personal care option in ASCAP. The deductible amount is entered on the **MA History** tab of the Bridges **Eligibility** module in ASCAP.

Use the DHS-1210, Services Approval Notice to notify the client of home help services approval when MA eligibility is met through this option. The notice must inform the client that the home help payment will be affected by the deductible amount, and that the client is responsible for paying the provider the MA deductible amount each month.

Do **not** close a case eligible for MA based on this policy option if the client does not pay the provider. It has already been ensured that MA funds will not be used to pay the client's deductible liability. The payment for these expenses is the responsibility of the client.

Changes in the client's deductible amount will generate a system tickler from Bridges.

MA eligibility under this option **cannot** continue if the cost of personal care becomes **equal to or less than** the MA excess income amount.

Adult Services Manual (ASM) 105, 11-1-2011 pages 1-2 of 3

The Appellant's need for assistance at home was not contested in this case. Rather, the Appellant's HHS case was not continued because she had a Medicaid spend-down that she had not met.

Department policy requires an HHS participant to have full coverage Medicaid or have met the monthly Medicaid spend-down in order to be eligible for the HHS program. Here, the ASW testified that there was no evidence that Appellant had met her spend-down and that she is required to rely on the data provided to her to make decisions.

Appellant testified that her Department of Human Services caseworker cancelled her Medicaid case. Appellant appealed the decision and her case was re-instated for Medicaid but not her HHS. Appellant stated that she has continually needed the HHS care and that her medical condition has worsened.

A DHS-1605 Notice of Case Action dated ██████████ indicates "Your MA deductible **as** been met for ██████████. Per your Services worker you are no longer receiving monthly personal care. Therefore, DHS can't budget this as an ongoing medical expense." (Respondent's Exhibit A, page 12).

The Department witness instructed Appellant to contact her eligibility specialist and talk to him about ways to meet her spend-down

[REDACTED]
Docket No. 14-016927 HHS
Decision and Order

The Department's documentation establishes that the Appellant has an unmet Medicaid spend-down. Therefore, the Appellant is not eligible to receive HHS and a denial of payment for HHS was appropriate.

DECISION AND ORDER

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

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that:

The Department's decision is **AFFIRMED**.

Landis Y. Lain

Landis Y. Lain
Administrative Law Judge
for Nick Lyon, Director
Michigan Department of Community Health

Date Signed: [REDACTED]

Date Mailed: [REDACTED]

LYL/db

cc: [REDACTED]

***** 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.