

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

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IN THE MATTER OF:

██████████,

Appellant

Docket No. 15-003283 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 telephone conference hearing was held on ██████████.

Appellant personally appeared and testified.

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

**ISSUE**

Did the Department properly deny Appellant's Home Help Services ("HHS") application on the grounds that Appellant did not have any activity of daily living (ADL) rating of 3 or higher?

**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 is a ██████ year old male beneficiary of the welfare Medicaid and SSI programs. Appellant's diagnoses include DJD, generalized osteoarthritis, diabetes mellitus prostate cancer. (Exhibit A.28).
2. Appellant testified that he received welfare benefits as a beneficiary of the HHS program in his "late forties". (Testimony).
3. On ██████████, the Department received a referral on behalf of Appellant. (Exhibit A.7)

4. On ██████████ the Department conducted an in-person assessment at Appellant's residence. The ASW's notes indicate that Appellant met the ASW at the door and climbed a steep set of stairs independently without difficulty; Appellant indicated to ASW that he is able to bath, groom, dress, toilet, eat independently; observed transferring and mobile without difficulty and no assistance; states he owns a cane but that it was in a friend's car. (Exhibit A.11; Testimony).
5. Appellant brought his cane to the administrative hearing.
6. On ██████████, the Department received a DHS-54A signed ██████████ by Appellant's physician indicating that Appellant needs assistance with IADLs, and, mobility. (Exhibit A.28; Testimony).
7. On ██████████ the Department issued a Negative Action Notice informing Appellant that her HHS application was denied due to Appellant not meeting Department policy regarding ADLs and ADL ranking. (Exhibit A.9-10).
8. On ██████████ Appellant filed a Hearing Request stating that he needed assistance with food preparation, laundry, making groceries, cleaning home, and shoveling snow. (Exhibit A.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.

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.

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### **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.

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## **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.

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### **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) 120, 5-1-2012,  
Pages 1-5 of 5*

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.

Activities must be certified by a Medicaid enrolled medical professional and may be provided by individuals or by private or public agencies. The medical professional does not prescribe or authorize personal care services. Needed services are determined by the comprehensive assessment conducted by the adult services specialist.

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

Here, the Department argues that effective October, 2011, eligibility for the HHS program requires at least 1 ADL and that based on the ASW assessment, there was no showing of an ADL need.

Appellant argues for IADLs in his hearing request, and at hearing, also argued that he meets the criteria for one ADL-mobility. Appellant further argues that his physician indicated that he needs assistance with mobility on the DHS-54A, as well as in other medical documents. Appellant also argues that he met the requirements 20 years ago, and has not improved. Appellant argues that that the ASW refused to accept other medical documents at the in person assessment, and failed to follow policy in not interviewing his caretaker.

As noted in the above policy cited regarding eligibility criteria found in ASM 105, the ASW "...is responsible for determining the necessity and level of need for HHS..." ASM 105, page 3 of 4. This has been widely viewed as giving the ASW the discretion, based on the in-person interview, to make an assessment. This assessment, if it is in



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accordance with the DHS policy and procedure, may be different from that found by an applicant's physician. In other words, the ASW may override a physician's statement in such circumstances.

In the present case, on 11/24/14 the ASW went to the Appellant's home and interviewed Appellant and her provider regarding HHS. The ASW indicated that Appellant did not meet the program requirements as she did not rank Appellant at a 3 or higher for ADLs that would meet the eligibility criteria. The ASW testified that Appellant not only did not use his cane, but it was not in his home, and exhibited an ability to climb stairs without assistance without difficulty, and independently.

As noted above, the specialist is given much discretion in making in person and in home assessments. In fact, the specialist has the authority to override an applicant's physician's assessment.

Regarding the provider, there is no mandate that the provider be present at the initial assessment. As pointed out by the Department, the Department cannot open an HHS without having interviewed the provider; however, as to the facts here, there was no authority cited by Appellant that would require the Department to ensure that the provider was notified and/or present at the initial interview.

Regarding Appellant's requests for IADLs, as noted, Appellant cannot trigger eligibility based on an IADL. Regarding the need for mobility, the Department's evidence indicating that Appellant's need for mobility as not rising to a 3 or greater rank was supported by the credible and substantial evidence; this ALJ has no authority to overrule where the Department has met its burden of going forward, and Appellant did not present evidence by a preponderance that would rebut the Department's.

As to Appellant's request for assistance shoveling snow, the HHS program is strictly a program to assist individuals with needs in the home; it is not a program that uses Medicaid dollars for maintaining a house, yard work, shoveling snow, etc. Such is prohibited by federal and state law. As to Appellant meeting HHS eligibility requirements 20 years ago, such is not relevant to the issue here. It is noted however, that the eligibility requirements 20 years ago were different.

The purview of an administrative law judge (ALJ) is to review the Department's action and to make a determination if those actions are in compliance with Department policy, and not contrary to law. The ALJ must base the hearing decision on the preponderance of the evidence offered at the hearing or otherwise included in the record.

Here, Appellant has the burden of proof. Appellant did not present credible and substantial evidence to support finding a hands-on requirement triggering eligibility for the HHS program as defined by the federal and state law. After a careful review of the record, this ALJ finds that the ASW's assessment here is supported by credible and substantial evidence of record. As such, the denial must be upheld based on the available information.

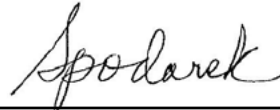
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**DECISION AND ORDER**

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

**IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:**

The Department's decision is AFFIRMED.



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Janice Spodarek  
Administrative Law Judge  
for Nick Lyon, Director  
Michigan Department of Health and Human  
Services

cc:

[REDACTED]

JS [REDACTED]

Date Signed: [REDACTED]

Date Mailed: [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.