

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

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

IN THE MATTER OF:

Docket No. 15-004154 HHS

████████████████████

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Appellant.

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**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 Appellant's request for a hearing.

After due notice, a telephone was held on ██████████. Appellant was present at the hearing but did not testify. Appellant's daughter, ██████████ (the provider), appeared as Appellant's Authorized Hearing Representative and testified on Appellant's behalf. ██████████, Appeals Review Officer, and ██████████, Adult Services Services Specialist appeared for the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS or the Department or Respondent) Department.

State's Exhibit A, pages 1-42 were admitted on the record as evidence.

**ISSUE**

Did the Department properly determine that Appellant did not provide sufficient evidence that she qualified for Home Help Services (HHS)?

**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 Medicaid beneficiary, born ██████████, who is diagnosed with major depression, emphysema, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, diabetes, and gout in the legs.
2. Appellant had been receiving HHS since ██████████. (State's Exhibit A, page 10)
3. Appellant was receiving HHS for assistance with bathing, grooming, transferring, medication, housework, laundry, shopping and meal preparation. (State's Exhibit A, page 11)

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4. Appellant was receiving HHS for █████ hours █████ minutes per month or █████ (State's Exhibit A, page 21)
5. On █████, the Adult Services specialist conducted an in-home visit with a person who identified herself as █████
6. On █████, the department sent Appellant an Advance Negative Action Notice following her review, informing her that her HHS would be terminated based upon some concerns she had and because the home assessment did not identify a need for hands on services of at least an Activity of Daily Living (ADL) rank of "3" or higher, making Appellant ineligible for HHS.
7. On █████, 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.

Adult Services Manual (ASM) 101, 12-1-13, 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 1 of 4.*

Adult Services Manual (ASM) 105, 12-1-13, 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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### **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 120, 12-1-2013), 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.

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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 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.

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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.

#### 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 adjoined 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, 12-1-2013,  
Pages 1-5 of 5*

In the instant case, the department witness testified that on ██████████, she went to Appellant's home for an in-home review, which Appellant had notice of. When she arrived to the home, the person there told her that Appellant was not at home and identified herself as ██████████. The caseworker learned later that the person who identified herself as ██████████ was Appellant. The caseworker observed Appellant as she moved about the home freely. Appellant bent over and picked up a dog (approximately ██████ lbs.).

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Appellant lifted a [REDACTED] year old toddler off of a table and handed the child to another woman in the household. [REDACTED] indicated that home belonged to her and her husband and that Appellant was staying with them. [REDACTED] indicated that Appellant was at the doctor's office. (State's Exhibit A page 12) On [REDACTED], a woman identifying herself as Appellant's daughter contacted the caseworker and told her that [REDACTED] was actually Appellant. She did not know why her mother identified herself as [REDACTED]. (State's Exhibit A page 13)

On [REDACTED], the caseworker returned to the home. Appellant came to the door with a towel on her shoulder. Appellant stated that she takes medication that wipes out her memory, but she did remember that the worker had been to her house to prior week. Appellant was able to recall that she had a medical appointment to see her physician the following week. Appellant signed an agreement to have her physician follow up with the worker via telephone by [REDACTED], to discuss Appellant's medical conditions. (State's Exhibit A pages 14-15)

The worker determined by Bridges clearance that there were several individuals living in the home with active assistance cases, despite what was told to the caseworker by Appellant and her provider. (State's Exhibit A page 17)

On [REDACTED], Appellant told the caseworker that he refused to speak to the caseworker about Appellant's condition and to use the medical needs form that had been provided. The caseworker stated that she has seen Appellant transferring independently in and out of a car on [REDACTED] separate occasions and on one occasion, Appellant was observed out shopping and carrying a bag. (State's Exhibit A page 17)

Appellant's witness testified that Appellant does need help in the home as she is depressed. The provider testified that she cooks, does laundry, runs household errand, helps with transfers and some grooming. The Appellant's nephew lives in the home with her. (Testimony)

Based on the evidence presented, Appellant has failed to prove, by a preponderance of evidence, that the denial of her HHS was inappropriate. The ASW observed Appellant walking, standing, sitting, and getting up and down without any assistance or the use of any adaptive equipment. 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 she terminated Appellant from the HHS program. The ASW provided credible, detailed testimony regarding her observations of, and discussions with, Appellant. Accordingly, the denial of Appellant's HHS is upheld.



[REDACTED]  
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**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 terminated Appellant's HHS.

**IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:**

The Department's decision is AFFIRMED.



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

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.