

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

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IN THE MATTER OF:

██████████,

Appellant.

Docket No. 15-004903 HHS

Case No. ██████████

_____ /

AMENDED 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 appeared and testified. Appellant's niece, ██████████ appeared and testified on Appellant's behalf. ██████████, Appeals Review Officer, represented the Department of Health and Human Services (Department). ██████████, Adult Services Worker (ASW), appeared as a witness for the Department.

State's Exhibit A, pages 1-36 were admitted on the record as evidence.

In accordance with the agreement on the record, the Department is **ORDERED** to reinstate Appellant's application for HHS and conduct an in-home assessment to determine Appellant's need for assistance with eating, taking medications, grooming, meal preparation, shopping, laundry, and housework.

ISSUE

Did the Department agree to reassess Appellant's Home Help Services (HHS) application?

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 Medicaid beneficiary, born ██████████, who is diagnosed with Ectrodactyl-ectodermal dysplasia-cleft Syndrome (EEC Syndrome), Sacroilitis, Degenerative Disc disease, GAD 311.0, Asthma, congenital absence of Digits of hands, legal blindness, and hearing impaired. She cannot travel or live independently. State's Exhibit A pages 15-16
2. On ██████████, the Department received a Medical Needs Form which indicated that Appellant has a medical need for assistance with taking medications, mobility, grooming, meal preparation, shopping,

laundry and housework. State's Exhibit A page 6

3. On [REDACTED], the ASW conducted an intake interview with Appellant. Appellant was alone and stated that she could perform her Activities of Daily Living. States' Exhibit A page 11
4. On [REDACTED], the Department sent Appellant an Advance Negative Action Notice informing her that HHS would be denied 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, and based on the Medical Needs Form completed by the doctor, it has been determined that hands on care is not necessary. State's Exhibit A page 7
5. On [REDACTED], 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.

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,
12-1-13, Pages 1-3 of 3

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.

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.

Docket No. 15-004903 HHS
Decision and Order

In the instant case, Appellant submitted a Medical Needs Form, dated [REDACTED], which indicates that she has a medical need for assistance with grooming, mobility, taking medication, meal preparation, shopping, laundry and housework. Appellant is hearing impaired, legally blind and has EEC syndrome. She is absent fingers on either hand. The Medical Needs Form does list a medical diagnosis which would require HHS.

The ASW testified that she conducted the intake interview. She could see that Appellant did need help and could not live alone, but Appellant was adamant that she could perform all of her activities of daily living by herself so she was required to determine that Appellant is able to physically perform her activities of daily living without assistance. The ASW consulted with her supervisor and suggested that Appellant appeal the decision. She is willing to perform another in home assessment now that Appellant understands that she must give information on exactly what activities she can and cannot perform for herself.

Appellant's witness testified that Appellant tries to be independent, but cannot live alone. She needs help with most activities. She cannot open packages without assistance. She cannot prepare meals because of her vision and her hands.

Appellant testified that she does need help with buttons and zippers. She cannot unbutton or button clothing and cannot zip her jackets. She cannot fasten or unfasten a bra and she cannot tie shoes. She gets a special top on her medications which allow her to open the bottle. She lives with a friend and cannot live alone because she is legally blind and hearing impaired. She cannot prepare meals but can make macaroni and cheese and potatoes if someone opens the package for her. She is unable to wash dishes. Her roommate performs most cooking and cleaning tasks. Appellant needs assistance with paperwork as she is legally blind and uses a special accommodation device to assist her with reading. She can see light and shadows but not words on paper. She needs help with cleaning her apartment because of her severe back pain, and needs help with transportation and changing the batteries in her hearing aid. She has to take her wigs off to groom them. Appellant cannot cut up her own meat, but can feed herself once the food is cut up and placed before her. Appellant has had skin grafts on her hands and has special skin care needs.

Appellant's testimony, the medical evidence and the ASW's testimony, establishes that Appellant has a certified medical need for HHS. Appellant has provided a Medical Needs Form which lists her diagnosis and certifies that Appellant has a medical need for assistance with activities of personal care ADLs.

Based on the evidence presented, this Administrative Law Judge finds that the Department did find that Appellant's application for HHS must be denied because Appellant failed to provide sufficient evidence that she needed help with ADLs. However, based upon the evidence contained in the record, the ASW agreed to reinstate Appellant's case and conduct a second in-home assessment. Appellant agrees to provide sufficient evidence of her need for assistance with ADLs so that her HHS case can be opened.

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 agreed to reinstate Appellant's HHS application and conduct a reassessment of Appellant's eligibility for services.

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

cc:

[REDACTED]

LYL [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 must 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.