

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

IN THE MATTER OF:

[REDACTED]

MAHS Reg. No.: 15-018548
Issue No.: 2001
Agency Case No.: [REDACTED]
Hearing Date: December 16, 2015
County: WASHTENAW (DISTRICT 20)

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE: Kevin Scully

HEARING DECISION

Following Claimant's request for a hearing, this matter is before the undersigned Administrative Law Judge pursuant to MCL 400.9 and 400.37; 7 CFR 273.15 to 273.18; 42 CFR 431.200 to 431.250; 45 CFR 99.1 to 99.33; and 45 CFR 205.10. After due notice, telephone hearing was held on December 16, 2015, from Lansing, Michigan. Participants on behalf of Claimant included [REDACTED] and her sister [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] (Eligibility Specialist) represented the Department of Health and Human Services (Department).

ISSUE

Did the Department of Health and Human Services (Department) properly determine the Claimant's eligibility for the Medicare Savings Program (MSP)?

FINDINGS OF FACT

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

1. On March 31, 2015, the Claimant requested that her Medical Assistance (MA) under the Program of All Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) managed care program.
2. On April 17, 2015, the Claimant requested Medicare Savings Program (MSP) benefits.
3. The Claimant began to receive Medicare Savings Program (MSP) benefits under the Additional Low Income Medicare Beneficiary (ALMB) category effective July 1, 2015.

4. On October 1, 2015, the Department received the Claimant's request for a hearing protesting the Department's failure to issue Medicare Savings Program (MSP) benefits for May and June of 2015.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Department policies are contained in the Department of Health and Human Services Bridges Administrative Manual (BAM), Department of Health and Human Services Bridges Eligibility Manual (BEM), Department of Health and Human Services Reference Tables Manual (RFT), and Department of Health and Human Services Emergency Relief Manual (ERM).

Clients have the right to contest a department decision affecting eligibility or benefit levels whenever it is believed that the decision is incorrect. The Department will provide an administrative hearing to review the decision and determine the appropriateness. The Michigan Administrative Hearing System (MAHS) may grant a hearing for any of the following:

- Denial of an application and/or supplemental payments.
- Reduction in the amount of program benefits or service.
- Suspension or termination of program benefits or service.
- Restrictions under which benefits or services are provided.
- Delay of any action beyond standards of promptness.
- For FAP only, the current level of benefits or denial of expedited service. Department of Human Services Bridges Administrative Manual (BAM) 600 (April 1, 2015), pp 3-4.

A request for hearing must be in writing and signed by the claimant, petitioner, or authorized representative. Rule 400.904(1). Moreover, the Department of Human Services Bridges Administrative Manual (BAM) 600 (April 1, 2015), p. 6, provides in relevant part as follows:

The client or authorized hearing representative has 90 calendar days from the date of the written notice of case action to request a hearing. The request must be received anywhere in DHS within the 90 days.

The Medical Assistance (MA) program is established by Title XIX of the Social Security Act, 42 USC 1396-1396w-5; 42 USC 1315; the Affordable Care Act of 2010, the collective term for the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, Pub. L. No. 111-148, as amended by the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010, Pub. L. No. 111-152; and 42 CFR 430.10-.25. The Department (formerly known as the Department

of Human Services) administers the MA program pursuant to 42 CFR 435, MCL 400.10, and MCL 400.105-.112k.

There are three categories of Medicare Savings Program (MSP) benefits including the Qualified Medicare Beneficiary (QMB), the Special Low Income Medicare Beneficiary (SLBM), and the Additional Low Income Medicare Beneficiary (ALMB). QMB pays Medicare premiums, and Medicare coinsurances, and Medicare deductibles. QMB coverage begins the calendar month after the processing month. SLMB pays Medicare Part B premiums. SLMB coverage is available for retro MA months and later months. ALMB pays Medicare Part B premiums provided funding is available. The Department of Community Health notifies the Department of Human Services if funding is available. ALMB coverage is available for retro MA months and later months. Department of Human Services Bridges Eligibility Manual (BEM) 165 (January 1, 2015), pp 2-3.

The Claimant was an ongoing MA recipient receiving benefits under the PACE managed care program. On March 31, 2015, the Claimant requested that the Department close her PACE benefits. On April 17, 2015, the Claimant requested MSP benefits, which she was not eligible for as a full MA recipient.

Due to a processing error, the Claimant's MA benefits did not end until June 30, 2015, and the Claimant has been reimbursed for her Medicare premiums effective July 1, 2015.

The Department is required to act on a change reported by means other than a tape match within 15 workdays after becoming aware of the change with respect to MA benefits. Department of Health and Human Services Bridges Administrative Manual (BAM) 220 (October 1, 2014), p 6. When a benefit recipient requests case closure, the Department is required to make appropriate referrals for other programs or services. BAM 220, p 19. In this case, the Claimant's request to close MA benefits was not completed until July 1, 2015, which was 92 days after her request.

This Administrative Law Judge finds that the closure of benefits under the PACE program was a delay beyond the Department's standard of promptness.

The Claimant was not eligible for MSP benefits while she was receiving full MA benefits, but the ALMB program allows for retroactive MSP benefits. Since the closure of full MA benefits was due to Department error, this Administrative Law Judge finds that the Claimant may be eligible for retroactive MSP benefits back to the point the Department should have closed her full MA benefits under the PACE program, assuming that she met all other criteria of that program.


The Administrative Law Judge, based on the above Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, and for the reasons stated on the record, if any, finds that the Department did not act in accordance with Department policy when it determined the Claimant's Medicare Savings Program (MSP) benefits.

DECISION AND ORDER

Accordingly, the Department's decision is **REVERSED**.

THE DEPARTMENT IS ORDERED TO BEGIN DOING THE FOLLOWING, IN ACCORDANCE WITH DEPARTMENT POLICY AND CONSISTENT WITH THIS HEARING DECISION, WITHIN 10 DAYS OF THE DATE OF MAILING OF THIS DECISION AND ORDER:

1. Initiate a determination of the Claimant's eligibility for the Medicare Savings Program (MSP) as of March 31, 2015, the date she requested closure of her PACE benefits.
2. Provide the Claimant with a Notice of Case Action (DHS-1605) describing the Department's revised eligibility determination.
3. Issue the Claimant any retroactive benefits she may be eligible to receive, if any.



Kevin Scully
Administrative Law Judge
for Nick Lyon, Director
Department of Health and Human Services

Date Signed: **12/22/2015**

Date Mailed: **12/22/2015**

KS/■

NOTICE OF APPEAL: A party may appeal this Hearing Decision in the circuit court in the county in which he/she resides, or the circuit court in Ingham County, within 30 days of the receipt date. A copy of the claim or application for appeal must be filed with the Michigan Administrative Hearing System (MAHS).

A party may request a rehearing or reconsideration of this Hearing Decision from MAHS within 30 days of the mailing date of this Hearing Decision, or MAHS **MAY** order a rehearing or reconsideration on its own motion. MAHS **MAY** grant a party's Request for Rehearing or Reconsideration when one of the following exists:

- Newly discovered evidence that existed at the time of the original hearing that could affect the outcome of the original hearing decision;

- Misapplication of manual policy or law in the hearing decision which led to a wrong conclusion;
- Typographical, mathematical or other obvious error in the hearing decision that affects the rights of the client;
- Failure of the ALJ to address in the hearing decision relevant issues raised in the hearing request.

The party requesting a rehearing or reconsideration must specify all reasons for the request. MAHS will not review any response to a request for rehearing/reconsideration. A request must be *received* in MAHS within 30 days of the date this Hearing Decision is mailed.

A written request may be faxed or mailed to MAHS. If submitted by fax, the written request must be faxed to (517) 335-6088 and be labeled as follows:

Attention: MAHS Rehearing/Reconsideration Request

If submitted by mail, the written request must be addressed as follows:

Michigan Administrative Hearings
Reconsideration/Rehearing Request
P.O. Box 30639
Lansing, Michigan 48909-8139

cc:

