

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

**IN THE MATTER OF:**

[REDACTED]

Reg. No.: 15-010980  
Issue No.: 2001  
Case No.: [REDACTED]  
Hearing Date: August 31, 2015  
County: OAKLAND-DISTRICT 4

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE: Lynn M. Ferris**

**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; and Mich Admin Code, R 792.11002. After due notice, a telephone hearing was held on August 31, 2015 from Detroit, Michigan. Participants on behalf of Claimant included the Claimant. Participants on behalf of the Department of Health and Human Services (Department) included the Department.

**ISSUE**

Did the Department properly calculate the Claimant Medical Assistance (MA) spend down amount?

**FINDINGS OF FACT**

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

1. The Claimant is an ongoing recipient of Medical Assistance with a current spend down of \$1026.
2. The Claimant receives Social Security RSDI in the amount of \$1454 and based upon the Department's SOLQ does not pay a Medicare Part B premium. The Department included the correct gross income as \$1454. Exhibit 3
3. The Protected Income Level for a medical group of one person living in Oakland County is \$408.
4. The Department issued a Health Care Coverage Determination Notice on [REDACTED], [REDACTED] imposing a \$1026 monthly deductible spend down amount. Exhibit 2

5. The Claimant requested a timely hearing on [REDACTED], protesting the spend down amount.

### **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).

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.

In this case, The Department imposed a spend down (deductible) in the amount of \$1026. The MA spend down budget was reviewed at the hearing to determine if the Department correctly determined the Claimant's spend down amount, and that it was based on the correct income. The Department correctly included \$1454 monthly RSDI received by Claimant from Social Security benefits. Claimant confirmed this amount.

Clients who are not eligible for full MA coverage because their net income exceeds the applicable Group 2 MA Protected Income Levels (PIL) based on their shelter area and fiscal group size, are eligible for MA coverage under the deductible program with the deductible equal to the amount their monthly net income exceeds the PIL. BEM 135 (January 2011), p. 2; BEM 544 (August 2008), p. 1; BEM 545 (July 2011), p. 2; RFT 240 (July 2007), p. 1.

In this case, the monthly PIL for an MA group of one (Claimant) living in Oakland County is \$408. BEM 211 (November 2012), p. 5; RFT 200 (July 2007), p. 1; RFT 240, p. 1. Therefore, Claimant's MA coverage is subject to a deductible if Claimant's monthly net income, based on her gross income, is greater than \$408.

In this case, the Department produced an SSI-Related MA budget showing how the deductible in Claimant's case was calculated. Exhibit 3. Claimant confirmed her monthly gross income amount from RSDI. Thus, the Department properly concluded that Claimant's gross income was \$1454. This amount is reduced by a \$20 disregard, resulting in a net unearned income of \$1434. See BEM 163, p. 2; BEM 530 (October 1, 2012); BEM 541 (January 1, 2011), p.5. No other expense were presented, thus the final step is to deduct the \$408 the PIL fro the net income of \$1434 which results in a

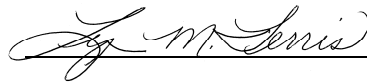
deductible of \$1026. In the budget presented the Claimant did have medical bills which also serve to reduce the deductible amount but only when bills are presented.

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 acted in accordance with Department policy when it imposed a \$1026 medical spend down in the Claimant's case.

### **DECISION AND ORDER**

Accordingly, the Department's decision is

**AFFIRMED.**



**Lynn M. Ferris**  
Administrative Law Judge  
for Nick Lyon, Director  
Department of Health and Human Services

Date Signed: **9/4/2015**

Date Mailed: **9/4/2015**

LMF / hw

**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:

