

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:

██████████,

Appellant

Docket No. 15016618 MHP
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.*, following the Appellant's request for a hearing.

After due notice, a telephone hearing was held on ██████████. Appellant's Guardian Linda Young appeared and testified. ██████████, Supports Coordinator; and ██████████, Speech and Language Pathologist, appeared and testified on behalf of Appellant.

██████████, Inquiry Dispute Resolution Coordinator; and ██████████, Medical Director, appeared to testify on behalf of Respondent, ██████████ of Michigan. (Respondent or MHP)

Respondent's Exhibit A pages 1-27 were admitted as evidence.

ISSUE

Did the MHP properly deny the Appellant's request for CPT E2510 Speech Generating Device Synthesized Mixed Method Message?

FINDINGS OF FACT

Based on the competent, material, and substantial evidence presented, the Administrative Law Judge finds as material fact:

1. Molina Healthcare of Michigan ("MHP") is contracted with the state of Michigan to arrange for the delivery of health services to Medicaid recipients.
2. Appellant is a ██████ year old Medicaid beneficiary, DOB ██████████.
3. At all times relevant to this case, Appellant was enrolled in the MHP.

4. Appellant does not speak. She is diagnosed with Developmental Disability Syndrome.
5. On ██████████, Appellant's physician filed a prior authorization request with the MHP on Appellant's behalf for a CPT E2510 Speech Generating Device Synthesized Mixed Method Message.
6. On ██████████, the MHP sent Appellant notice that her request for the CPT E2510 Speech Generating Device was denied based upon Medicaid Provider Manual guidelines 2.39.
7. On ██████████, Appellant filed a Request for Hearing with the Michigan Administrative Hearing System (MAHS) to contest the negative action.

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.

On May 30, 1997, the Department received approval from the Health Care Financing Administration, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, allowing Michigan to restrict Medicaid beneficiaries' choice to obtain medical services only from specified MHPs.

The Respondent is one of those MHPs.

The covered services that the Contractor has available for enrollees must include, at a minimum, the covered services listed below. The Contractor may limit services to those which are medically necessary and appropriate, and which conform to professionally accepted standards of care. The Contractor must operate consistent with all applicable Medicaid provider manuals and publications for coverages and limitations. If new services are added to the Michigan Medicaid Program, or if services are expanded, eliminated, or otherwise changed, the Contractor must implement the changes consistent with State direction in accordance with the provisions of Contract Section 2.024.

Although the Contractor must provide the full range of covered services listed below they may choose to provide services over and above those specified. The covered services provided to enrollees under this Contract include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Ambulance and other emergency medical transportation

- Blood lead testing in accordance with Medicaid Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment (EPSDT) policy
- Certified nurse midwife services
- Certified pediatric and family nurse practitioner services
- Chiropractic services
- Diagnostic lab, x-ray and other imaging services
- Durable medical equipment (DME) and supplies
- Emergency services
- End Stage Renal Disease services
- Family planning services (e.g., examination, sterilization procedures, limited infertility screening, and diagnosis)
- Health education
- Hearing and speech services
- Hearing aids
- Home Health services
- Hospice services (if requested by the enrollee)
- Immunizations
- Inpatient and outpatient hospital services
- Intermittent or short-term restorative or rehabilitative services (in a nursing facility), up to 45 days
- Restorative or rehabilitative services (in a place of service other than a nursing facility)
- Medically necessary weight reduction services
- Mental health care – maximum of 20 outpatient visits per calendar year
- Out-of-state services authorized by the Contractor
- Outreach for included services, especially pregnancy-related and Well child care
- Parenting and birthing classes
- Pharmacy services
- Podiatry services
- Practitioners' services (such as those provided by physicians, optometrists and dentists enrolled as a Medicaid Provider Type 10)
- Prosthetics and orthotics
- Tobacco cessation treatment including pharmaceutical and behavioral support
- Therapies (speech, language, physical, occupational) excluding services provided to persons with development disabilities which are billed through Community Mental Health Services Program (CMHSP) providers or Intermediate School Districts.
- Transplant services
- Transportation for medically necessary covered services

- Treatment for sexually transmitted disease (STD)
- Vision services
- Well child/EPSTD for persons under age 21 [Article 1.020 Scope of [Services], at §1.022 E (1) contract, 2010, p. 22].

(1) The major components of the Contractor's utilization management (UM) program must encompass, at a minimum, the following:

- (a) Written policies with review decision criteria and procedures that conform to managed health care industry standards and processes.
- (b) A formal utilization review committee directed by the Contractor's medical director to oversee the utilization review process.
- (c) Sufficient resources to regularly review the effectiveness of the utilization review process and to make changes to the process as needed.
- (d) An annual review and reporting of utilization review activities and outcomes/interventions from the review.
- (e) The UM activities of the Contractor must be integrated with the Contractor's QAPI program.

(2) Prior Approval Policy and Procedure

The Contractor must establish and use a written prior approval policy and procedure for UM purposes. The Contractor may not use such policies and procedures to avoid providing medically necessary services within the coverages established under the Contract. The policy must ensure that the review criteria for authorization decisions are applied consistently and require that the reviewer consult with the requesting provider when appropriate. The policy must also require that UM decisions be made by a health care professional who has appropriate clinical expertise regarding the service under review. [Contract, *Supra*, p. 49].

As stated in the Department-MHP contract language above, a MHP "must operate consistent with all applicable Medicaid Provider Manuals and publications for coverages and limitations."

Medicaid Provider Manual (MPM), Medical Supplier, Section 2.39 Speech Generating Devices states that:

A Speech Generating Device (SGD) is defined as any electric or nonelectric aid or device that replaces or enhances lost communication skills. The device must be an integral part of a treatment plan for a person with severe communication disability who is otherwise unable to communicate basic functional needs.

SGDs may be covered under the following conditions for beneficiaries who demonstrate the comprehension and physical skills necessary to communicate using the requested device.

Prosthetic Function - To replace a missing body part, to prevent or correct physical deformity or malfunction, or to support a weak or deformed portion of the body.

Rehabilitative Function - To restore communication skills to the previous functional level by providing a tool to the beneficiary. A speech-language pathologist, in conjunction with other disciplines such as occupational therapists, physical therapists, psychologists, and seating specialists as needed, must provide a thorough and systematic evaluation of the beneficiary's receptive and expressive communication abilities.

Ancillary professionals must possess proper credentials (certification, license and registration, etc., as appropriate).

SGD vendors (manufacturers, distributors) may not submit assessment information or justification for any requested SGD.

MPM, Medical Supplier, Section 2.39,
Speech Generating Devices
Page 74, April 1, 2015.

Medicaid Provider Manual, Medical Supplier 2.39 Speech Generating Devices Standards of Coverage Criteria requires documentation showing the speech generating device is to replace a missing body part, to prevent/correct physical deformity or malfunction, to support weak or deformed portion of the body or to restore communication skills to the previous functional level by providing the tool to the member.

Evidence on the record indicates that Appellant is a █████ year old woman with an uncertain medical diagnosis. She is diagnosed with Developmental Disability and Mixed Expressive/Receptive Language Disorder (ICD 9). She was able to state that she is not able to communicate her wants and needs verbally and needs to supplement with gestures and facial expressions. The prognosis for speech improvement is poor. The medical prognosis for improvement in Appellant's diagnosis is poor. Written expression was not functional. Reading comprehension was not functional.

Appellant has failed to satisfy the burden of proving by a preponderance of the evidence that the MHP improperly denied the requested service. The denial is based upon the fact that Appellant failed to provide the required information that the MHP needs to make a possible favorable determination. The decision to deny the request for authorization must be upheld under the circumstances. Appellant has not established the she is missing a body part, that there is something wrong with her face or mouth, or

[REDACTED]
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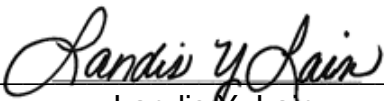
that her face or mouth does not work correctly. In addition, Appellant's medical reports do not establish that the Appellant's speech is worse than it was before. Appellant has not established that CPT E2510 Speech Generating Device is a covered service for Appellant under the circumstances. The Department's determination must be upheld.

DECISION AND ORDER

Based on the above findings of fact and conclusions of law, the Administrative Law Judge finds that the MHP appropriately denied Appellant's request for coverage of the CPT E2510 Speech Generating Device under the circumstances.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that:

The MHP's decision is **AFFIRMED**.



Landis Y. Lain

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

LYL [REDACTED]

cc: [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 mailing date of the Decision and Order or, if a timely request for rehearing was made, within 30 days of the mailing date of the rehearing decision.