

**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.: 15-020837
Issue No.: ESO
Agency Case No.: [REDACTED]
Hearing Date: January 04, 2016
County: DHHS SPECIAL PROCESSING

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE: Robert J. Chavez

HEARING DECISION

Pursuant to a September 8, 2014 federal lawsuit, the Department of Health and Human Services (Department) issued notices to Medicaid applicants who were potentially denied full Medicaid coverage based on immigration status between January 2014 and May 2015. The notice included information about how to request a hearing. Petitioner filed a request for a hearing and accordingly this matter is before the undersigned Administrative Law Judge pursuant to Michigan Administrative Hearing Rules (R 792.10101 – R 792.11903) and the Administrative Procedures Act, 1969 PA 306, as amended, MCL 24.201 *et seq.*

After due notice, a telephone hearing was held on January 4, 2016, from Detroit, Michigan. The Petitioner appeared pro se. The Department was represented by [REDACTED] Eligibility Specialist. Interpreter [REDACTED] of Linguistica International served as translator.

ISSUE

Did the Department properly determine Petitioner's immigration status or citizenship when determining Medicaid (MA) eligibility?

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 January 19, 2015, Petitioner applied for MA or had a redetermination of current MA benefits.
2. On the date of MA application or redetermination, Petitioner was not a United States citizen.

3. Beginning May, 2014, Petitioner's Emergency Services Only (ESO) MA coverage was upgraded to full MA coverage; the upgrade was processed on November 2, 2015.
4. In July, 2015, the Department issued a notice to the Petitioner indicating he/she might have been denied full MA coverage based on immigration status between January 2014 and May 2015.
5. On August 26, 2015, Petitioner requested a hearing.

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), Department of Health and Human Services Modified Adjusted Gross Income (MAGI) Related Eligibility Manual (MREM), 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 administers the MA program pursuant to 42 CFR 435, MCL 400.10, and MCL 400.105-.112k.

In this case, Petitioner requested a hearing disputing the approval of ESO MA and denial of full MA coverage.

However, on November 2, 2015, the Department retroactively converted all ESO MA coverage months to full MA. As such, there is no further dispute.

While there were questions about reimbursement for already paid medical expenses, such questions are beyond the purview of the current hearing. Furthermore, current coverage lapses are also not in the scope of the current hearing request.

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 properly determine Petitioner's immigration status or citizenship when determining MA eligibility but has corrected any incorrect action.

DECISION AND ORDER

Accordingly, the Department's determination about MA eligibility based on immigration status is **AFFIRMED**.



Robert J. Chavez
Administrative Law Judge
for Nick Lyon, Director
Department of Health and Human Services

Date Signed: **2/5/2016**

Date Mailed: **2/5/2016**

RJC/tm

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.

cc:

