

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

IN THE MATTER OF:

████████████████████
████████████████████
████████████████████

MAHS Reg. No.: 15-021802
Issue No.: 2001
Agency Case No.: ██████████
Hearing Date: January 25, 2016
County: Wayne-District 31

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE: Zainab Baydoun

HEARING DECISION

Following Petitioner'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 January 25, 2016, from Detroit, Michigan. Petitioner appeared for the hearing and represented herself. The Department was represented by ██████████, Eligibility Specialist.

ISSUE

Did the Department properly process Petitioner's Medical Assistance (MA) benefits?

FINDINGS OF FACT

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

1. Petitioner was an ongoing recipient of MA benefits.
2. On an unverified date, the Department sent Petitioner a notice informing her that her MA case would be closed on the basis that she failed to return requested documentation.
3. On November 10, 2015, Petitioner requested a hearing disputing the Department's closure of her MA case.

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, Petitioner testified that in September 2015 she received verification forms from the Department which she completed and dropped off to the Department's local office on October 1, 2015, and signed the log. Petitioner stated that she received a notice from the Department informing her that her MA case and her child's MA case would be closed because the Department did not receive the paperwork. Petitioner requested a hearing to dispute the case closure. At the hearing, the Department testified that the issue had been corrected and that Petitioner and her two children have active MA benefits. The Department did not have any information concerning the case closure or what verifications were requested from Petitioner, however. The Department testified that based on the eligibility summary, Petitioner was approved for MA under the G2C program with a monthly deductible of \$47 for September 2015, \$112 for the months of October 2015 and November 2015, and that for December 1, 2015, ongoing, her deductible was \$379. According to the eligibility summary, Petitioner's MA was certified on November 24, 2015. (Exhibit A). The Department did not present any relevant evidence during the hearing other than the eligibility summary and could not accurately explain exactly what happened with Petitioner's MA benefits.

Petitioner asserted that she was not aware that her case was reinstated or that she was approved for MA under the G2C with a monthly deductible. The Department failed to establish that it provided Petitioner with notice of the change to MA with a deductible. BAM 220 (July 2015), p. 4. Furthermore, the Department failed to establish that Petitioner was provided with most beneficial type of MA coverage as required by Department policy, as there was no evidence that Petitioner was on a deductible based MA program prior to her case closure. BEM 105 (October 2014), p. 2.

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 failed to satisfy its burden of showing that it acted in accordance with Department policy when it processed Petitioner's MA 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. Redetermine Petitioner's MA eligibility from September 1, 2015, ongoing;
2. Provide Petitioner and her children with MA coverage under the most beneficial MA category from September 1, 2015, ongoing;
3. Notify Petitioner in writing of its decision.



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

Date Signed: **2/11/2016**

Date Mailed: **2/11/2016**

ZB / tlf

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:

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]