

**STATE OF MICHIGAN  
MICHIGAN ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING SYSTEM  
FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**  
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**IN THE MATTER OF:**

██████████,

Appellant

**Docket No.** 15-019959 HHS  
**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.*, upon the Appellant's request for a hearing.

After due notice, a telephone hearing was held on ██████████. Appellant appeared and testified. Appellant's Legal Guardian, ██████████ from Affordable Guardian Services, and ██████████, Case Manager, ██████████ also appeared to testify on Appellant's behalf. ██████████, Appeals Review Officer, represented the Department of Health and Human Services (Department). ██████████, Adult Protective Services and ██████████, Independent Living Specialist, appeared as witnesses for the Department. The caseworker who worked on the case did not appear at the hearing to testify.

State's Exhibits 1-28 were admitted as evidence without objection.

**ISSUE**

Did the Department properly deny the Appellant's Home Help Services ("HHS") application?

**FINDINGS OF FACT**

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

1. Appellant is a Medicaid beneficiary, date of birth ██████████. Appellant is ██████████ years old.
2. Appellant is diagnosed with mental retardation and is a Disabled Adult Child. She receives Social Security income through her father's Social Security.
3. On ██████████, Appellant submitted a DHS-54A Medical Needs form which indicated that Appellant has a certified medical need for assistance with taking medication, meal preparation, shopping, laundry

and housework. (State's Exhibit A page 29)

4. On ██████████, the Department caseworker completed an initial home assessment with Appellant only. The caseworker did not identify ADLs needs and determined that Appellant had not established a need for assistance with ADLs. The Medical Needs form did not identify a need for assistance with ADLs.
5. On ██████████, the Department caseworker sent Appellant an Adequate Negative Action Notice that HHS would be denied stating: As reported you take care of your personal care, therefore, you do not qualify for the Home Help Program. You have Summit Pointe Services in place for medication management.
6. On ██████████, Appellant filed a request for a hearing to contest the Department's 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.

Home Help Services (HHS) are provided to enable functionally limited individuals to live independently and receive care in the least restrictive, preferred settings. These activities must be certified by a physician and may be provided by individuals or by private or public agencies.

A referral may be received by phone, mail or in person and must be entered on ASCAP upon receipt. The referral source does not have to be the individual in need of the services.

For case registration and disposition the department must:

Print introduction letter, the DHS-390, Adult Services Application and the DHS-54A, Medical Needs form and mail to the client. The introduction letter allows the client 21 calendars days to return the documentation to the local office.

**Note:** The introduction letter does **not** serve as adequate notification if home help services are denied. The specialist must send the client a DHS-1212A, Adequate Negative Action Notice; see ASM 150, Notification of Eligibility Determination.

The adult services specialist must determine eligibility within the 45 day standard of promptness which begins from the time the referral is received and entered on ASCAP. The referral date entered on ASCAP must be the date the referral was received into the local office. The computer system calculates the 45 days beginning the day after the referral date and counting 45 calendar days. If the due date falls on a weekend or holiday, the due date is the next business day.

When a signed DHS-390 serves as the initial request for services, the referral date must be the date the application was received in the local office.

**Note:** A medical need form does not serve as an application for services. If the local office receives the DHS-54A, a referral must be entered on ASCAP for the date the form was received in the local office and an application sent to the individual requesting services.

After receiving the assigned case, the adult services specialist gathers information through an assessment, contacts, etc. to make a determination to open, deny or withdraw the referral; see ASM 115, Adult Services Requirements.

ASM 110, pages 1-2 5-1-2013, ASB 2013-003

Medical needs are certified utilizing the DHS-54A, Medical Needs form and must be completed by a Medicaid enrolled medical professional. The medical professional must hold one of the following professional licenses:

- Physician (M.D. or D.O.)
- Physician Assistant
- Nurse Practitioner
- Occupational Therapist.
- Physical therapist. ASM 105, page 3 4-4-2015, ASB 2015-003

Adult Services Manual (ASM) 101, 11-1-11, addresses HHS payments:

### **Payment Services Home Help**

Home help services are non-specialized personal care service activities provided under the independent living services program to persons who meet eligibility requirements.

Home help services are provided to enable individuals with functional limitation(s), resulting from a medical or physical

disability or cognitive impairment to live independently and receive care in the least restrictive, preferred settings.

*Adult Services Manual (ASM) 101,  
11-1-2011, Page 1 of 4.*

Adult Services Manual (ASM) 105, 11-1-11, addresses HHS eligibility requirements:

### **Requirements**

Home help eligibility requirements include all of the following:

- Medicaid eligibility.
- Certification of medical need.
- Need for service, based on a complete comprehensive assessment (DHS-324) indicating a functional limitation of level 3 or greater for activities of daily living (ADL).
- Appropriate Level of Care (LOC) status.

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### **Necessity For Service**

The adult services specialist is responsible for determining the necessity and level of need for home help services based on:

- Client choice.
- A completed DHS-324, Adult Services Comprehensive Assessment. An individual must be assessed with at least one activity of daily living (ADL) in order to be eligible to receive home help services.

**Note:** If the assessment determines a need for an ADL at a level 3 or greater but these services are not paid for by the department, the individual would be eligible to receive IADL services.

**Example:** Ms. Smith is assessed at a level 4 for bathing however she refuses to receive assistance. Ms. Smith would be eligible to receive assistance with IADL's if the assessment determines a need at a level 3 or greater.

- Verification of the client's medical need by a Medicaid enrolled medical professional via the DHS-54A. The client is responsible for obtaining the medical

certification of need; see ASM 115, Adult Services Requirements.

*Adult Services Manual (ASM) 105,  
4-01-2015, Pages 1-3 of 3*

Adult Services Manual (ASM 120, 5-1-2012), pages 1-4 of 5 addresses the adult services comprehensive assessment:

## **INTRODUCTION**

The DHS-324, Adult Services Comprehensive Assessment is the primary tool for determining need for services. The comprehensive assessment must be completed on **all open independent living services cases**. ASCAP, the automated workload management system, provides the format for the comprehensive assessment and all information will be entered on the computer program.

## **Requirements**

Requirements for the comprehensive assessment include, but are not limited to:

- A comprehensive assessment will be completed on all new cases.
- A face-to-face contact is required with the client in his/her place of residence.
- The assessment may also include an interview with the individual who will be providing home help services.
- A new face-to-face assessment is required if there is a request for an increase in services before payment is authorized.
- A face-to-face assessment is required on all transfer-in cases before a payment is authorized.
- The assessment must be updated as often as necessary, but minimally at the six month review and annual redetermination.
- A release of information must be obtained when requesting documentation from confidential sources and/or sharing information from the department record.
  - Use the DHS-27, Authorization to Release Information, when requesting client information from another agency.
  - Use the DHS-1555, Authorization to Release Protected Health Information, if requesting

- additional medical documentation; see RFF 1555. The form is primarily used for APS cases.
- Follow rules of confidentiality when home help cases have companion APS cases, see SRM 131 Confidentiality.

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## Functional Assessment

The **Functional Assessment** module of the **ASCAP** comprehensive assessment is the basis for service planning and for the home help services payment.

Conduct a functional assessment to determine the client's ability to perform the following activities:

### Activities of Daily Living (ADL)

- Eating.
- Toileting.
- Bathing.
- Grooming.
- Dressing.
- Transferring.
- Mobility.

### Instrumental Activities of Daily Living (IADL)

- Taking Medication.
- Meal Preparation and cleanup.
- Shopping.
- Laundry.
- Light Housework.

### Functional Scale

ADLs and IADLs are assessed according to the following five-point scale:

1. Independent.  
Performs the activity safely with no human assistance.
2. Verbal Assistance.  
Performs the activity with verbal assistance such as reminding, guiding or encouraging.
3. Some Human Assistance.

Performs the activity with some direct physical assistance and/or assistive technology.

4. Much Human Assistance.

Performs the activity with a great deal of human assistance and/or assistive technology.

5. Dependent.

Does not perform the activity even with human assistance and/or assistive technology.

Home help payments may only be authorized for needs assessed at the 3 level ranking or greater.

An individual must be assessed with at least one activity of daily living in order to be eligible to receive home help services.

**Note:** If the assessment determines a need for an ADL at a level 3 or greater but these services are not paid for by the department, the individual would be eligible to receive IADL services.

**Example:** Ms. Smith is assessed at a level 4 for bathing however she refuses to receive assistance. Ms. Smith would be eligible to receive assistance with IADLs if the assessment determined a need at a level 3 or greater.

See ASM 121, Functional Assessment Definitions and Ranks for a description of the rankings for activities of daily living and instrumental activities of daily living.

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### **Time and Task**

The specialist will allocate time for each task assessed a rank of 3 or higher, based on interviews with the client and provider, observation of the client's abilities and use of the reasonable time schedule (RTS) as a **guide**. The RTS can be found in ASCAP under the Payment module, Time and Task screen. When hours exceed the RTS rationale **must** be provided.

An assessment of need, at a ranking of 3 or higher, does not automatically guarantee the maximum allotted time allowed by the reasonable time schedule (RTS). **The specialist must assess each task according to the actual time required for its completion.**

**Example:** A client needs assistance with cutting up food. The specialist would only pay for the time required to cut the food and not the full amount of time allotted under the RTS for eating.

#### IADL Maximum Allowable Hours

There are monthly maximum hour limits on all instrumental activities of daily living except medication. The limits are as follows:

- Five hours/month for shopping
- Six hours/month for light housework
- Seven hours/month for laundry
- 25 hours/month for meal preparation

#### Proration of IADLs

If the client does not require the maximum allowable hours for IADLs, authorize only the amount of time needed for each task. Assessed hours for IADLs (except medications) must be prorated by **one half** in shared living arrangements where other adults reside in the home, as home help services are **only** for the benefit of the client.

**Note:** This does not include situations where others live in adjoining apartments/flats or in a separate home on shared property and there is no shared, common living area.

In shared living arrangements, where it can be **clearly** documented that IADLs for the eligible client are completed separately from others in the home, hours for IADLs do not need to be prorated.

**Example:** Client has special dietary needs and meals are prepared separately; client is incontinent of bowel and/or bladder and laundry is completed separately; client's shopping is completed separately due to special dietary needs and food is purchased from specialty stores; etc.



Certain services are not covered by HHS. ASM 101 provides a listing of the services not covered by HHS.

### **Services not Covered by Home Help**

Home help services must **not** be approved for the following:

- Supervising, monitoring, reminding, guiding, teaching or encouraging (functional assessment rank 2).
- Services provided for the benefit of others.
- Services for which a responsible relative is **able** and **available** to provide (such as house cleaning, laundry or shopping).
- Services provided by another resource at the same time (for example, hospitalization, MI-Choice Waiver).
- Transportation - See Bridges Administrative Manual (BAM) 825 for medical transportation policy and procedures.
- Money management such as power of attorney or representative payee.
- Home delivered meals.
- Adult or child day care.
- Recreational activities. (For example, accompanying and/or transporting to the movies, sporting events etc.)

**Note:** The above list is not all inclusive.

*Adult Services Manual (ASM) 101, 12-01-2013,  
Pages 3-4 of 4.*

A service plan must be developed for all independent living services cases. The service plan is formatted in ASCAP and interacts with the comprehensive assessment.

The service plan directs the movement and progress toward goals identified jointly by the client and specialist. **Service plans are to be completed on all new cases, updated as often as necessary, but minimally at the six month review and annual reassessment. ASM 130, pages 1-2.**

Service plan development practices will include the use of the following skills:

- **Listen actively** to the client.
- Encourage clients to **explore options** and select the appropriate services and supports.

- Monitor for **congruency** between case assessment and service plan.
- Provide the necessary supports to **assist clients in applying for resources**.
- Continually **reassess** case planning.
- Enhance/preserve the client's **quality of life**.

**Monitor and document** the status of all **referrals** to waiver programs and other community resources **to ensure quality outcomes**. ASM 130, page 2

Bridges Administrative Manual 105, page 14, the local office must assist clients who ask for help in completing forms or gathering verifications. Particular sensitivity must be shown to clients who are illiterate, **disabled** or **not** fluent in English. (Emphasis Added)

Bridges Administrative Manual (BAM) 110, page 12, states in pertinent part:

Persons, who provide medical care to the client, or their agents, should **not** act for the client when there is a relative, guardian or friend who is willing and able to act. If a court has appointed a guardian for a client's estate (such as income and assets), the **guardian** is usually expected to act for the client. (Emphasis Added)

The AR assumes all the responsibilities of a client; see BAM 105. (BAM 110, page 9)

In the instant case, the caseworker who worked on the case indicates in her note that she left a message for Appellant's guardian on the telephone and then conducted the in-home assessment with Appellant alone. There is no evidence that Appellant's legal guardian was provided with adequate notice of the in-home assessment. Appellant does not retain the legal capacity to act on her own behalf or to determine her own appropriate level of care without assistance. The caseworker inappropriately conducted the in-home assessment with Appellant.

Appellant testified that she does need help. Appellant's representative testified on the record that Appellant needs prompting to perform her activities of daily living such as showering. She does require assistance with dressing. She is a fall risk and has pull cords in her apartment. She needs assistance getting into and out of the bath tub. She does receive 9 hours per week of Community Living Services through Community Mental Health but she needs more services. In the morning and at night the Community Living Service aids assist Appellant with toileting, (as she does not clean herself adequately) bathing, grooming, and dressing. She needs assistance getting into and out of cars and needs help with mobility as she cannot negotiate stairs alone. She is █████ years old and she weighs █████ pounds. She has edema on her legs which is red, angry and weeping. She has to be reminded to keep her legs elevated. Any type of exertion is tiring. The Community Living Services are not sufficient and she is in need of HHS.

The Summit Pointe Assessment dated ██████████, recommends that Appellant received a level of care assessment of Adult –DD/Level 3 – Moderate. Recommended services were Community Living Supports, Homebased Services, Medication Administration, supported Independent Housing, and Targeted Case Management. (Appellant’s Exhibit 1 pages 1-15)

The Department has not established by the necessary competent, substantial and material evidence on the record that it was acting in compliance with Department policy when it denied Appellant’s application for HHS based upon the fact that Appellant did not establish a need for assistance with ADLs at the home assessment. Appellant has established a medical necessity for assistance with ADLs. The Department’s determination cannot be upheld.

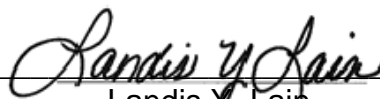
Based on the evidence presented, this Administrative Law Judge finds that the Department did find that Appellant’s application for HHS must be denied because Appellant failed to provide sufficient evidence that she needed help with ADLs. However, based upon the evidence contained in the record, the ASW agreed to re-instate Appellant’s case and conduct a second in-home assessment. Appellant agrees to provide sufficient evidence of her need for assistance with ADLs so that her HHS case can be opened.

**DECISION AND ORDER**

The Administrative Law Judge, based on the above findings of fact and conclusions of law, finds that, based on the available information, the Department did not properly deny Appellant’s HHS.

**IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:**

The Department’s decision is **REVERSED**. In accordance with Department policy, the Department is ORDERED to reinstate Appellant’s application for HHS and conduct an in-home assessment with Appellant and her Legal Guardian, to determine Appellant’s need for assistance with grooming, dressing, mobility, toileting, taking medications, bathing, meal preparation, shopping, laundry, and housework.



Landis V. Lain

Administrative Law Judge  
for Nick Lyon, Director

Michigan Department of Health and Human  
Services

[REDACTED]  
Docket No. 15-019959 HHS  
Decision and Order

cc:

[REDACTED]

Date Signed: January 14, 2016

Date Mailed: January 14, 2016

**\*\*\* 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 receipt of the Decision and Order or, if a timely request for rehearing was made, within 30 days of the receipt of the rehearing decision.