

**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:

Docket No. 15-022388 HHS
Case No. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Appellant
_____ /

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 hearing was held on [REDACTED] Appellant personally appeared and testified.

[REDACTED] Appeals Review Officer, represented the Department. [REDACTED] Adult Services Worker ("ASW"), appeared as a witness for the Department.

ISSUE

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

FINDINGS OF FACT

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

1. At all relevant times, Appellant has been and continues to be beneficiary of the Medicaid and SSI welfare programs. Appellant is a [REDACTED] year old male.
2. Appellant's medical impairment is listed as "muscle weakness (generalized)." (Exhibit A.12).
3. On [REDACTED] the Department received a referral for HHS. (Exhibit A).
4. On [REDACTED] the Department made a home visit for a face-to-face interview. ASW notes state in part that Appellant was observed preparing a meal in the kitchen, observed bending over and putting casserole dish into the over; observed to be moving about the home without any difficulty or use of equipment. Reports that he does not use any equipment other than glasses. Attending Pt 2-3 times per week. Reports that when his back goes out he needs assistance with everything. (Exhibit A.11).

Docket No. 15-022388 HHS
Decision and Order

5. On [REDACTED] the Department received a DHS-54A completed by Appellant's physician on [REDACTED] indicating that Appellant does not need any assistance with ADLs or IADLs. (Exhibit A.12).
6. On [REDACTED] the Department issued a Negative Action Notice informing Appellant that his HHS application was denied on the grounds that he did not meet the program requirements for the HHS program. (Exhibit A.5).
7. On [REDACTED] Appellant filed a timely Hearing Request stating that he is submitting more medical information including a disability parking placard application and discharge summary from [REDACTED] (Exhibit A.).

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.

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.

Medical Need Certification

Medical needs are certified utilizing the DHS-54A, Medical Needs form and must be completed by a Medicaid enrolled medical professional. Completed DHS-54A or veterans administration medical forms are acceptable for individual treated by a VA physician; see ASM 115, Adult Services Requirements.

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,
11-1-2011, Pages 2-3 of 3*

Adult Services Manual (ASM) 120, 5-1-12, addresses the 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 must 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.

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 IADL's 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.

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.

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.

*Adult Services Manual (ASM) 120, 5-1-2012,
Pages 1-5 of 5*

Adult Services Manual (ASM) 101, 11-1-11, addresses 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.

**Docket No. 15-022388 HHS
Decision and Order**

- 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, 11-1-2011,
Pages 3-4 of 4.*

In this case, the Department argues that Appellant does not have any ADL needs required to trigger eligibility for HHS (which would also allow Appellant services for IADLs). The Department also argued that despite the in-home assessment, Appellant did not submit evidence that his physician certified medical eligibility.

Appellant argues that he believes that he should be eligible for the HHS program on the basis of more medical information.

Under the functional assessment definitions and ranks for mobility found in ASM 121, in order to be ranked at a 3 or greater (required for eligibility), there must be a showing of:

Minimal hand-on assistance required for specific maneuvers with a wheelchair, negotiating stairs or moving on certain surfaces. Without the use of a walker or pronged cane, client would need physical assistance. (Exhibit A.27).

The Department here testified that Appellant was observed moving about in his home without exhibiting the need for any hands-on assistance as defined by the HHS program.

Appellant offered into evidence a disability parking application. However, Appellant offered no law or policy that indicates that such an application is evidence to be considered in assessing eligibility for the HHS program. Appellant also offered a discharge summary of [REDACTED]. However, again, Appellant offered no law or policy that would require the Department to take such a document into consideration as part of the eligibility requirements of the HHS program.

Docket No. 15-022388 HHS
Decision and Order

The purview of an administrative law judge (ALJ) at an administrative hearing is to make a determination as to whether the Department acted correctly under its policy and procedure at the time the Department made its determination, and, to ensure that the determination is not contrary to law.

In this case, policy cited above gives the ASW extra-ordinary discretion presumably on the grounds that the ASW conducts an in-person, face-to-face interview with the applicant. This discretion is so broad that an ASW can even make a finding that is contrary to the applicant's physician. At the same time, federal and state law does not permit the Department to issue Medicaid monies for the HHS program absent a medical certification from an individual's physician.

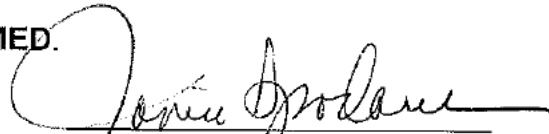
Here, Appellant did not bring forth sufficient evidence to show that he meets the requirements of the HHS program, within the confines of the DHS policy and procedure and the discretion granted to the ASW. As such, this ALJ must uphold the denial as the evidence here is in conformance with Department policy and procedure based on the available evidence.

DECISION AND ORDER

The Administrative Law Judge, based on the above findings of fact and conclusions of law, finds that the Department properly denied Appellant's HHS case based on the available information.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:

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



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

Date Mailed: 

JS/cg

cc: 

***** 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.