

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

IN THE MATTER OF:



MAHS Reg. No.: 15-022999
Issue No.: 2001
Agency Case No.: [REDACTED]
Hearing Date: February 17, 2016
County: Montcalm

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE: Kevin Scully

HEARING DECISION

Following Claimant'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 After due notice, telephone hearing was held on February 17, 2016, from Lansing, Michigan. Participants on behalf of Claimant included [REDACTED] (formerly known as [REDACTED] and her husband, [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] (Lead Worker) represented the Department of Health and Human Services (Department).

ISSUE

Did the Department of Health and Human Services (Department) properly determine the Claimant's eligibility for Medical Assistance (MA) and Medicare Savings Program 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. The Claimant was an ongoing Medical Assistance (MA) and Medicare Savings Program recipient.
2. The Claimant's Supplemental Security Income (SSI) eligibility ended requiring that she be reclassified into different category of Medical Assistance (MA).
3. On September 17, 2015, the Department notified the Claimant that her Medicare Savings Program benefits would close effective October 1, 2015.
4. On November 15, 2015, the Department received the Claimant's application for benefits.

5. On November 19, 2015, the Department notified the Claimant that her Medical Assistance (MA) benefits would close effective December 1, 2015.
6. On November 30, 2015, the Department received the Claimant's request for 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), 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.

There are three categories of Medicare Savings Program (MSP) benefits including the Qualified Medicare Beneficiary (QMB), the Special Low Income Medicare Beneficiary (SLBM), and the Additional Low Income Medicare Beneficiary (ALMB). QMB pays Medicare premiums, and Medicare coinsurances, and Medicare deductibles. QMB coverage begins the calendar month after the processing month. SLMB pays Medicare Part B premiums. SLMB coverage is available for retro MA months and later months. ALMB pays Medicare Part B premiums provided funding is available. The Department of Community Health notifies the Department of Human Services if funding is available. ALMB coverage is available for retro MA months and later months. Department of Human Services Bridges Eligibility Manual (BEM) 165 (January 1, 2015), pp 2-3.

Clients have the right to contest a department decision affecting eligibility or benefit levels whenever it is believed that the decision is incorrect. The Department will provide an administrative hearing to review the decision and determine the appropriateness. The Michigan Administrative Hearing System (MAHS) may grant a hearing for any of the following:

- Denial of an application and/or supplemental payments.
- Reduction in the amount of program benefits or service.
- Suspension or termination of program benefits or service.
- Restrictions under which benefits or services are provided.
- Delay of any action beyond standards of promptness.

- For FAP only, the current level of benefits or denial of expedited service. Department of Human Services Bridges Administrative Manual (BAM) 600 (October 1, 2015), pp 3-4.

Persons may qualify under more than one MA category. Federal law gives them the right to the most beneficial category. The most beneficial category is the one that results in eligibility or the least amount of excess income. Department of Health and Human Services Bridges Eligibility Manual (BEM) 105 (October 1, 2014), p 2.

The Claimant was an ongoing MA and Medicare Savings Program recipient when a redetermination of the most beneficial category of MA benefits the Claimant remained eligible for after her Supplemental Security Income (SSI) eligibility ended. On September 17, 2015, the Department notified the Claimant that it would close her Medicare Savings Program benefits. On November 15, 2015, the Department notified the Claimant that it would close her MA benefits.

The Department concedes that the Claimant has always been eligible for MA benefits under some category, and that she has remained eligible for Medicare Savings Program benefits.

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 act in accordance with Department policy when it closed the Claimant's Medical Assistance (MA) and Medicare Savings Program eligibility.


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. Initiate a determination of the Claimant's eligibility for Medical Assistance (MA) as of December 1, 2015.
2. Initiate a determination of the Claimant's eligibility for Medicare Savings Program benefits as of October 1, 2015.
3. Provide the Claimant with written notice describing the Department's revised eligibility determination.

4. Issue the Claimant any retroactive benefits she may be eligible to receive, if any.



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

Date Mailed: **2/23/2016**

KS/las

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:

