

**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.: 15-024198
Issue No.: ESO
Agency Case No.: [REDACTED]
Hearing Date: February 17, 2016
County: DHHS SPECIAL
PROCESSING OFFICE

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE: Eric Feldman

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 four-way telephone hearing was held on February 17, 2016, from Detroit, Michigan. The Petitioner, [REDACTED], was represented by her spouse, [REDACTED]. The Department was represented by [REDACTED], Eligibility Specialist. [REDACTED] served as translator during the hearing.

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 [REDACTED], Petitioner had a redetermination of current MA benefits. See Exhibit A, pp. 4-9.
2. On the date of MA redetermination, Petitioner was eligible for full MA coverage because she entered the U.S. based on her refugee status. See Exhibit A, p. 12.

3. On an unspecified date, Petitioner received only Emergency Services Only (ESO) MA coverage; however, Petitioner's ESO MA coverage was converted to full MA coverage for April 2014, ongoing. See Exhibit A, pp. 10-11 (Medicaid Eligibility).
4. On S [REDACTED], Petitioner requested a hearing. See Exhibit A, p. 2.
5. On [REDACTED], the Department sent Petitioner a Benefit Notice notifying her that she is eligible for full coverage from April 2014 to July 2014. See Exhibit A, pp. 13-14.

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.

As a preliminary matter, Petitioner was also present for the hearing, but did not provide any testimony.

In this case, Petitioner requested a hearing disputing her MA coverage. See Exhibit A, p. 2. It should also be noted that the undersigned's jurisdiction is only to review whether the Department denied Petitioner's full MA coverage between January 2014 to May 2015, in accordance with federal and state laws and policies.

To be eligible for full coverage MA, a person must be a U.S. citizen or an alien admitted to the U.S. under a specific immigration status. BEM 225 (January 2014; July 2014; October 2014; and October 2015), p. 2. An individual who is a permanent resident alien with a class code on the permanent residency card other than RE, AM or AS is eligible only for ESO MA coverage for the first five years in the U.S. unless the alien is a qualified military alien or the spouse or dependent child of a qualified military alien. BEM 225, pp. 7-8, 30; MREM, § 3.6. A qualified military alien is a qualified alien on active duty in, or veteran honorably discharged from, the U.S. Armed Forces. BEM 225, p. 5; MREM, § 3.6. A person who does not meet an acceptable alien status, including undocumented aliens and non-immigrants who have stayed beyond the period authorized by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, are eligible only for ESO

MA coverage. BEM 225, p. 9. The alien status of each non-citizen must be verified to be eligible for full MA coverage. BEM 225, p. 2.

In the present case, it was not disputed that Petitioner is eligible for full coverage MA because she entered the U.S. based on her refugee status. In fact, the evidence record contained Petitioner's permanent resident card, which showed that Petitioner was eligible for full MA coverage because she has been a resident since August 15, 2007, and her card appeared to show a RE6 category (copy a little blurry). See Exhibit A, p. 12. See BEM 225, pp. 7-8, 30; MREM, § 3.6. Nonetheless, the Department acknowledged that Petitioner was eligible for full MA coverage based on her refugee status.

Based on the foregoing information and evidence, along with both parties testimony, the Department properly determined Petitioner's immigration status when determining MA eligibility. Yes, the Department initially approved Petitioner for only ESO coverage. However, the Department updated all benefit periods that previously had ESO coverage and provided Petitioner with full MA coverage from April 2014, ongoing. See Exhibit A, pp. 1 and 10-11. As such, the Department properly determined that Petitioner was eligible for full-coverage MA. It should be noted that Petitioner did not have any active MA coverage for the period of January 2014 to March 2014. See Exhibit A, pp. 10-11.

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 properly determine Petitioner's immigration status or citizenship when determining MA eligibility.

DECISION AND ORDER

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



Eric Feldman
Administrative Law Judge
for Nick Lyon, Director
Department of Health and Human Services

Date Signed: **FEBRUARY 23, 2016**

Date Mailed: **FEBRUARY 23, 2016**

EF / hw

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:

