

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

P.O. Box 30763, Lansing, MI 48909
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IN THE MATTER OF:

██████████,

Petitioner

Docket No. 15-023098 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 Petitioner's request for a hearing.

After due notice, a hearing was held on ██████████. Petitioner appeared and testified. ██████████, Appeals Review Officer and ██████████, Adult Services Worker appeared and testified on behalf of the Department of Health and Human Services (Department).

Respondent's Exhibit A pages 1-28 and B pages 1-8 were admitted as evidence.

ISSUE

Did the Department properly reduce Petitioner's Home Help Services (HHS)?

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

1. Petitioner is a ██████ year old Medicaid beneficiary, date of birth ██████████. (State's Exhibit A page 5)
2. Petitioner is an SSI benefit recipient. (State's Exhibit A page 6)
3. Petitioner is diagnosed with: bipolar disorder, depression, hypertension, gastroesophageal reflux disease, carpal tunnel syndrome, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, lower back pain, learning disability and right hand surgery (██████████). (State's Exhibit A page 7)
4. Petitioner was receiving assistance with medication, housework, laundry, shopping, meal preparation, bathing, grooming and dressing in the amount of 56:38 hours per month or \$██████████. (State's Exhibit B page 1)

**Docket No. 15-023098 HHS
Decision and Order**

5. On [REDACTED], the caseworker met with Petitioner and his new chore provider.
6. After the meeting, the caseworker determined that Petitioner needed less assistance and proposed HHS reduction from \$ [REDACTED] to \$ [REDACTED].
(Testimony)
7. Petitioner was scored functional abilities rankings as follows: Bathing 3, grooming 3, dressing 3, transferring 1, continence 1, eating 1, mobility 1, respiration 1, medication 3, housework 3, laundry 3, shopping 3 and meal preparation 3. (State's Exhibit A page 14)
8. On [REDACTED], the Department caseworker sent Petitioner an Advance Negative Action Notice stating that Petitioner's HHS would be reduced effective [REDACTED]. The reason for this action was: Petitioner had less of a need for assistance since he has recovered from his surgery and was able to function independently with some tasks. (State's Exhibit A page 5)
9. Petitioner was approved for assistance with bathing, grooming, dressing, medication, housework, laundry, shopping and meal preparation. (State's Exhibit A page 13)
10. The new proposed Time and Task Assignments totaled 28:49 or \$ [REDACTED] per month for assistance with bathing, grooming, dressing, medication, housework, laundry, shopping, and meal preparation. (State's Exhibit A page 13)
11. On [REDACTED], the Michigan Administrative Hearing System (MAHS) received Petitioner's Request for Hearing.
12. On [REDACTED], Petitioner's doctor signed a DHS 54A medical Needs Form which indicated that Petitioner has a certified medical need for assistance with grooming, taking medications, meal preparation, shopping laundry and housework. (State's Exhibit B page 8)

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

**Docket No. 15-023098 HHS
Decision and Order**

activities must be certified by a physician and may be provided by individuals or by private or public agencies.

Adult Services Manuals 120 (12-1-2013) (hereinafter "ASM 120") address the issues of what services are included in Home Help Services and how such services are assessed. Pertinent department policy states:

Home Help Payment Services

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.

Home help services are defined as those tasks which the department is paying for through Title XIX (Medicaid) funds. These services are furnished to individuals who are **not** currently residing in a hospital, nursing facility, licensed foster care home/home for the aged, intermediate care facility (ICF) for persons with developmental disabilities or institution for mental illness.

These activities **must** be certified by a Medicaid enrolled medical professional and may be provided by individuals or by private or public agencies. **The medical professional does not prescribe or authorize personal care services.** Needed services are determined by the comprehensive assessment conducted by the adult services specialist.

Adult Services Manual (ASM) 120

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.

Docket No. 15-023098 HHS
Decision and Order

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.. This form is primarily used for APS cases.
- Follow rules of confidentiality when home help cases have companion adult protective services cases; see SRM 131, Confidentiality. ASM 120, pages 1-2

The **Bridges Eligibility** module in **ASCAP** contains information pertaining to the client's type of assistance (TOA) eligibility, scope of coverage and level of care.

The **Medical** module in **ASCAP** contains information regarding the physician(s), diagnosis, other health issues, adaptive equipment, medical treatments and medications. The medical needs certification date is entered on the diagnosis tab, at initial certification and annually thereafter, if applicable; see ASM 115, Adult Services Requirements.

Docket No. 15-023098 HHS
Decision and Order

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.

**Docket No. 15-023098 HHS
Decision and Order**

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 level 3 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 if assessed at a level 3 or greater.

Example: Ms. Smith is assessed at a level 4 for bathing. However, she refuses to receive assistance or her daughter agrees to assist her at no charge. Ms. Smith would be eligible to receive assistance with IADL's if the assessment determines a need at a level 3 or greater.

Note: If an individual uses adaptive equipment to assist with an ADL, and without the use of this equipment the person would require hands-on care, the individual must be ranked a level 3 or greater on the functional assessment. This individual would be eligible to receive home help services.

Example: Mr. Jones utilizes a transfer bench to get in and out of the bathtub, which allows him to bathe himself without the hands-on assistance of another. The adult services specialist must rank Mr. Jones a 3 or greater under the functional assessment. Mr. Jones would be eligible to receive home help services.

Assistive technology includes such items as walkers, wheelchairs, canes, reachers, lift chairs, bath benches, grab bars and hand held showers.

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.

Complex Care Needs

Complex care refers to conditions requiring intervention with special techniques and/or knowledge. These complex care tasks are performed on client's whose diagnoses or conditions require more management. The conditions may also require special treatment and equipment for which specific instructions by a health professional or client may be required in order to perform.

Docket No. 15-023098 HHS
Decision and Order

- Eating and feeding.
- Catheters or legs bags.
- Colostomy care.
- Bowel program.
- Suctioning.
- Specialized skin care.
- Range of motion exercises.
- Peritoneal dialysis.
- Wound care.
- Respiratory treatment.
- Ventilators.
- Injections.

When assessing a client with complex care needs, refer to the complex care guidelines on the adult services home page.

The specialist will allocate time for each task assessed a rank of 3 or greater, 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, a rationale **must** be provided.

An assessment of need, at a ranking of 3 or greater, 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 (IADL) 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)

**Docket No. 15-023098 HHS
Decision and Order**

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.

Responsible Relatives

A responsible relative is defined as an individual's spouse or a parent of an unmarried child under age 18.

Activities of daily living (ADL) may be approved when the responsible relative is **unavailable** or **unable** to provide these services.

Note: Unavailable means absence from the home for an extended period due to employment, school or other legitimate reasons. The responsible relative must provide a work or school schedule to verify they are unavailable to provide care. **Unable** means the responsible person has disabilities of their own which prevent them from providing care. These disabilities must be documented and verified by a medical professional on the DHS-54A, Medical Needs form.

Do **not** approve shopping, laundry, or light housecleaning, when a responsible relative of the client resides in the home, **unless** they are unavailable or unable to provide these services. Document findings in the general narrative in ASCAP.

Example: Mrs. Smith is in need of home help services. Her spouse is employed and is out of the home Monday thru Friday from 7a.m. to 7p.m. The specialist would not approve hours for shopping, laundry or house cleaning as Mr. Smith is responsible for these tasks.

**Docket No. 15-023098 HHS
Decision and Order**

Example: Mrs. Jones is in need of home help services. Her spouse's employment takes him out of town Monday thru Saturday. The specialist may approve hours for shopping, laundry or house cleaning.

In the instant case, Department caseworker notes from [REDACTED], indicates the following: that Petitioner ambulated independently without any assistive equipment. Petitioner reported that he is legally blind and he wears glasses and a magnifying glass. He was observed to have no problem signing his name or maneuvering. He wore black wrist supports on each wrist. He claimed to have a bump some years ago on the wrist, but it still hurts. His wrist appeared well healed. His caregiver portrayed him as an individual who gets angry and fusses and doesn't do things on his own without direction. For bathing Petitioner can turn on the water but he makes the water too hot. He can get in and out independently and has no bath chair. He needs help washing his back only. For grooming Petitioner needs help shaving, because he reports having problems holding the shaver (clippers). It was noted that he wore a short beard during the interview. He can brush his teeth, although his provider indicated that he needed reminders. Petitioner needs help with zippers, but the provider encourages him to wear jogging pants so he can mostly dress himself. His provider sets out his clothes for him. Petitioner does not tie shoes. He is independent in toileting, transferring, eating and mobility. Petitioner reported having a cane from hernia surgery but he does not use it. Petitioner forgets to take medication and will take too much so his provider sets AM and PM medications in a cup so he can take them appropriately. Petitioner can dust, tidy and put away towels but complains that his hands hurt. Petitioner mixes cleaning supplies inappropriately. He can do some tasks with direction. He is not active with Community Mental Health nor does he receive counseling. For laundry he can lift wet clothes into the dryer, can carry wet loads of laundry to the provider's house. He uses too much detergent. Petitioner attended the 11th grade and was in special education. For shopping Petitioner can make a list if requested; he can push the cart, go along, transfer bags into the house, put items away and identify items. For meals Petitioner can plan meals, wash and slice but needs help peeling. He can lift pots/pans, set the table, open packages and cans. He is unsafe using the stove. (State's Exhibit A page 12)

Petitioner testified that he did not get notice that the caseworker was coming to his house. He does have a shower chair. Petitioner wants a new worker. The caseworker is unprofessional. He does need help. He does have guards on his wrists. (Testimony)

This Administrative Law judge finds that the Department Representative's testimony and assessment to be thorough and credible under the circumstances. Extensive notes taken by the caseworker indicate that Petitioner's need for hands on care has decreased since [REDACTED] when he had surgery on his hands. Petitioner did not present any updated medical information or evidence to rebut the caseworker's assessment.

Docket No. 15-023098 HHS
Decision and Order

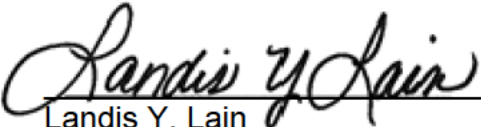
Based on the evidence presented, Petitioner has failed to prove, by a preponderance of the evidence, that the reduction in HHS was inappropriate. Department policy dictates that the Adult Services Specialist should authorize only the amount of time needed for each task. The Adult Services Specialist reviewed Petitioner's ADL's and IADL's with Petitioner and the care provider/representative and based her updated rankings on what was told to her during the assessment and the doctor's assessment. The Department's Adult Services Supervisor calculated Petitioner's HHS based on policy and the information provided by Petitioner at their meeting. Should Petitioner's need change he can request another assessment and provided updated medical information. The Department's action must be upheld.

DECISION AND ORDER

The Administrative Law Judge, based on the above findings of fact and conclusions of law, finds that the Department did establish by the necessary competent, material and substantial evidence on the record that it was acting in compliance with Department policy when it reduced Petitioner's HHS.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:

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



Landis Y. Lain
Administrative Law Judge
for Nick Lyn, Director
Michigan Department of Health and Human
Services

cc:



Date Mailed: 

***** 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 Petitioner 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.