



RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS
MICHIGAN ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING SYSTEM
Christopher Seppanen
Executive Director

SHELLY EDGERTON
DIRECTOR

[REDACTED]

Date Mailed: [REDACTED]
MAHS Docket No.: 16-000575
Agency No.: [REDACTED]
Petitioner: [REDACTED]

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE: Colleen Lack

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 [REDACTED]. [REDACTED], the Petitioner, appeared on her own behalf. [REDACTED], mother, appeared as a witness for Petitioner. [REDACTED], Appeals Review Officer, represented the Department of Health and Human Services (Department). [REDACTED], Adult Services Specialist; and [REDACTED], Adult Services Supervisor, appeared as witnesses for the Department.

The hearing was originally scheduled for [REDACTED]. Petitioner's request for adjournment was granted and the hearing was re-scheduled for [REDACTED].

During the hearing proceedings, the Department's Hearing Summary packet was admitted as Exhibit A, pp. 1-35.

ISSUE

Did the Department properly deny Home Help Services (HHS) for Petitioner?

FINDINGS OF FACT

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

1. On [REDACTED], the Department received a referral for Petitioner for HHS. (Exhibit A, p. 7)

2. On [REDACTED], the Department received a DHS-54A Medical Needs form completed by Petitioner's doctor, listing diagnoses of carpal tunnel syndrome, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), and lumbar disc disease. The doctor certified that Petitioner had a medical need for assistance with listed personal care activities. (Exhibit A, p. 15)
3. On [REDACTED], the Adult Services Specialist went to Petitioner's home and completed an initial assessment with Petitioner and her mother, the prospective HHS provider. During the assessment, the Activities of Daily Living (ADLs) and Instrumental Activities of Daily Living (IADLs) were discussed. Petitioner reported needs for assistance with bathing, grooming, dressing, meal preparation, shopping, laundry, and housework. The Adult Services Specialist observed that Petitioner did not utilize any adaptive equipment or assistance from another person for mobility or transferring during the assessment. The Adult Services Specialist felt that Petitioner's reported needs for assistance were inconsistent with the observations of Petitioner during the assessment. (Exhibit A, pp. 10-11; Adult Services Specialist Testimony)
4. On [REDACTED], the Adult Services Specialist spoke with Petitioner's doctor about the DHS-54A Medical Needs form. The doctor reported that Petitioner did not have needs for assistance with bathing, grooming, or dressing at that time. The doctor explained that he certified mobility because at one time Petitioner was given adaptive equipment to walk with. The doctor also indicated he certified the activity of medications because Petitioner needed assistance with taking medications due to some mental health issues. (Exhibit A, pp. 10-11; Adult Services Specialist Testimony)
5. The Adult Services Specialist determined that Petitioner was a functional ranking level 1 for all ADLs and functional ranking level 3 for the IADLs of housework, laundry, shopping, and meal preparation. (Exhibit A, pp. 12-14)
6. On [REDACTED], the Department sent Petitioner an Adequate Negative Action Notice informing her that HHS was denied because based on the most recent assessment and information from the doctor, Petitioner does not qualify for HHS at this time. (Exhibit A, p. 5)
7. Petitioner's Request for Hearing was received by the Michigan Administrative Hearing System on [REDACTED].

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

The Medical Assistance Program (MA) 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 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 health professional and may be provided by individuals or by private or public agencies.

Adult Services Manual (ASM) 101, 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.

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) 101,
December 1, 2013, pp. 1-2 of 5

Adult Services Manual (ASM) 105, 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 indicating a functional limitation of level 3 or greater for at least one activity 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. 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.

The DHS-54A or veterans administration medical form are acceptable for individuals 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 all of the following:

- 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 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.

- 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,
April 1, 2015, pp. 1-4 of 4

Adult Services Manual (ASM) 120, 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 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. 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.

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 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.

Time and Task

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) 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 adjoined 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,
December 1, 2013, pp. 1-6 of 7

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). A responsible relative is defined as an individual's spouse or a parent of an unmarried child under age 18.
- 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,
December 1, 2013, p. 5 of 5.

On [REDACTED], the Department received a referral for Petitioner for HHS. (Exhibit A, p. 7) On [REDACTED], the Department received a DHS-54A Medical Needs form completed by Petitioner's doctor, listing diagnoses of carpal tunnel syndrome, COPD, and lumbar disc disease. The doctor certified that Petitioner had a medical need for assistance with listed personal care activities. (Exhibit A, p. 15)

A home visit was attempted on [REDACTED], but Petitioner was unavailable. (Exhibit A, p. 11)

On [REDACTED], the Adult Services Specialist went to Petitioner's home and completed an initial assessment with Petitioner and her mother, the prospective HHS provider. During the assessment, the ADLs and IADLs were discussed. Petitioner reported needs for assistance with bathing, grooming, dressing, meal preparation, shopping, laundry, and housework. The Adult Services Specialist observed that Petitioner did not utilize any adaptive equipment or assistance from another person for mobility or transferring during the assessment. The Adult Services Specialist felt that Petitioner's reported needs for assistance were inconsistent with the observations of Petitioner during the assessment. (Exhibit A, pp. 10-11; Adult Services Specialist Testimony)

On [REDACTED], the Adult Services Specialist spoke with Petitioner's doctor about the DHS-54A Medical Needs form. The doctor reported that Petitioner did not have needs for assistance with bathing, grooming, or dressing at that time. The doctor explained that he certified mobility because at one time Petitioner was given adaptive equipment to walk with. The doctor also indicated he certified the activity of medications because Petitioner needed assistance with taking medications due to some mental health issues. (Exhibit A, pp. 10-11; Adult Services Specialist Testimony)

The Adult Services Specialist determined that Petitioner was a functional ranking level 1 for all ADLs and functional ranking level 3 for the IADLs of housework, laundry, shopping, and meal preparation. (Exhibit A, pp. 12-14) Accordingly, the Petitioner was not eligible for HHS because she did not have a need for assistance at functional

ranking 3 or greater with any ADL. On [REDACTED], the Department sent Petitioner an Adequate Negative Action Notice informing her that HHS was denied because based on the most recent assessment and information from the doctor, Petitioner does not qualify for HHS at this time. (Exhibit A, p. 5)

Petitioner disagrees with the denial. Petitioner testified that while she did go up the steps during the [REDACTED] home visit, and is getting better with a little physical therapy, she still has problems. Petitioner recalled that she always used hand rails. Petitioner also takes medication, which does help her. Petitioner asserted that she had adaptive equipment at the house during the home visit. Specifically, a shower head, a raised toilet seat, and a walker. However, Petitioner acknowledged that she did not use the walker going from her car to the apartment or within the apartment during the Adult Services Specialist's home visit. Petitioner explained that her mother and the girl that helps her had everything at hand, so she did not have to go far to get her medications for the Adult Services Specialist. Petitioner testified that she can walk (but does not walk fast) and go up steps, but gets real uncomfortable sitting and doing strenuous things like shopping, standing, and getting dressed. Petitioner noted that she has been considered disabled since [REDACTED]. Petitioner stated she cannot do things she was able to do in the past. Petitioner testified she has some additional current diagnoses and is having physical therapy for her back and dislocated shoulder. Petitioner's stated she will probably never get the use of her arms back to what she had in the past. (Petitioner Testimony)

Petitioner's mother testified that Petitioner needs assistance. Petitioner walks a little slower and is not the same. Petitioner's mother stated Petitioner could use some assistance with activities like laundry and shopping. (Mother Testimony)

Based on the information available to the Department at the time of the [REDACTED], case action, the determination to deny HHS for Petitioner was in accordance with Department policy. There was insufficient credible evidence to establish that Petitioner had a medical need for at least some direct physical assistance and/or assistive technology (functional ranking 3 or greater) regarding at least one ADL at the time of the initial assessment. The Adult Services Specialist indicated there were inconsistencies between the reported needs for assistance and her observations of Petitioner during the assessment. The Adult Services Specialist contacted Petitioner's doctor to clarify the DHS-54A Medical Needs form, who reported that Petitioner did not have a need for assistance with ADLs like bathing, grooming, and dressing. The only ADL the doctor certified was mobility, which was based upon Petitioner having been given adaptive equipment in the past. (Exhibit A, pp. 10-11; Adult Services Specialist Testimony) There are inconsistencies between the parties about how much moving around by Petitioner the Adult Services Specialist observed during the home visit. However, Petitioner's testimony acknowledged that there was at least some walking and going up stairs, during which Petitioner did not use her walker. Therefore, it was not established that without the use of adaptive equipment Petitioner would require hands-on assistance with mobility.

Accordingly, the Adult Services Specialist's determination that Petitioner was not eligible for HHS because she did not have a need for assistance at functional ranking 3 or greater with at least one ADL, and therefore the Department's [REDACTED], determination to deny the HHS referral, is upheld based on the information available to the Department for this initial assessment.

If Petitioner has not already done so, she may wish to reapply for HHS and provide the Department with the additional medical documentation along with any updated information about her functional needs and abilities.

DECISION AND ORDER

The Administrative Law Judge, based on the above findings of fact and conclusions of law, decides that the Department properly denied Home Help Services (HHS) for Petitioner.

IT IS, THEREFORE, ORDERED that:

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

CL/cg



Colleen Lack

Administrative Law Judge

for Nick Lyon, Director

Department of Health and Human Services

NOTICE OF APPEAL: A party may appeal this Order in circuit court within 30 days of the receipt date. A copy of the circuit court appeal must be filed with the Michigan Administrative Hearing System (MAHS).

A party may request a rehearing or reconsideration of this Order if the request is received by MAHS within 30 days of the date the Order was issued. The party requesting a rehearing or reconsideration must provide the specific reasons for the request. MAHS will not review any response to a request for rehearing/reconsideration.

A written request may be mailed or faxed to MAHS. If submitted by fax, the written request must be faxed to (517) 335-6088; 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 30763
Lansing, Michigan 48909-8139

Agency Representative

[REDACTED]

DHHS Department Rep.

[REDACTED]

DHHS -Dept Contact

[REDACTED]

DHHS-Location Contact

[REDACTED]

Petitioner

[REDACTED]