



RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

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

SHELLY EDGERTON
DIRECTOR



Date Mailed: July 25, 2016
MAHS Docket No.: 16-005689
Agency No.: [Redacted]
Petitioner: [Redacted]

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE: Corey Arendt

DECISION AND ORDER

This matter is before the undersigned Administrative Law Judge pursuant to MCL 400.9 and upon the Petitioner's request for a hearing.

After due notice, a hearing was held on June 14, 2016 and continue don July 13, 2016. The Petitioner appeared and offered testimony on her own behalf. [Redacted], Director of [Redacted], appeared and offered testimony on behalf of the Department.

Exhibits:

Petitioner	None
Department	A – 1 st Hearing Summary
	B – 2 nd Hearing Summary

ISSUE

Did the Department properly deny the Petitioner's request for "Sterile Saline Flushes"?

FINDINGS OF FACT

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

1. In or around February of 2016, the Petitioner's Physician requested saline flushes on behalf of the Petitioner. (Testimony).
2. In February of 2016, the Petitioner received from her Physician, a notice indicating the request for saline flushes were denied by Medicare. (Testimony).

3. On or around March 7, 2016, the Petitioner requested saline flushes from the Department. (Testimony).
4. On March 7, 2016, the Department sent the Petitioner a notice indicating her request for saline flushes was denied as saline flushes are not a covered benefit. (Exhibit B; Testimony).
5. On May 9, 2016, the Michigan Administrative Hearings System, received from the Petitioner a request for hearing.

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.

Appellant is claiming services through the Department's Home and Community Based Services for Elderly and Disabled. The waiver is called MI Choice in Michigan. The program is funded through the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to the Michigan Department of Community Health (Department). Regional agencies, in this case AAA, function as the Department's administrative agency.

Waivers are intended to provide the flexibility needed to enable States to try new or different approaches to the efficient and cost-effective delivery of health care services, or to adapt their Programs to the special needs of particular areas or groups of recipients. Waivers allow exceptions to State plan requirements and permit a State to implement innovative programs or activities on a time-limited basis, and subject to specific safeguards for the protection of recipients and the program. Detailed rules for waivers are set forth in subpart B of part 431, subpart A of part 440, and subpart G of part 441 of this chapter.

42 CFR 430.25(b)

A waiver under section 1915(c) of the [Social Security] Act allows a State to include as "medical assistance" under its plan, home and community based services furnished to recipients who would otherwise need inpatient care that is furnished in a hospital, SNF [Skilled Nursing Facility], ICF [Intermediate Care Facility], or ICF/MR [Intermediate Care Facility/Mentally Retarded], and is reimbursable under the State Plan. See 42 CFR 430.25(c)(2).

Types of services that may be offered generally include:

Home or community-based services may include the following services, as they are defined by the agency and approved by CMS:

- Case management services.
- Homemaker services.
- Home health aide services.
- Personal care services.
- Adult day health services
- Habilitation services.
- Respite care services.
- Day treatment or other partial hospitalization services, psychosocial rehabilitation services and clinic services (whether or not furnished in a facility) for individuals with chronic mental illness, subject to the conditions specified in paragraph (d) of this section.

Other services requested by the agency and approved by CMS as cost effective and necessary to avoid institutionalization.

42 CFR 440.180(b)

With respect to such services, the applicable version of the Michigan Medicaid Provider Manual (MPM) states:

SECTION 4 – SERVICES

The array of services provided by the MI Choice program is subject to the prior approval of CMS. Waiver agencies are required to provide any waiver service from the federally approved array that a participant needs to live successfully in the community, that is:

- indicated by the current assessment;
- detailed in the plan of service; and
- provided in accordance with the provisions of the approved waiver.

Services must not be provided unless they are defined in the plan of service and must not precede the establishment of a plan of service. Waiver agencies cannot limit in aggregate the number of participants receiving a given service or the number of services available to any given participant. Participants have the right to receive services from any willing and qualified provider.

MDHHS and waiver agencies do not impose a copayment or any similar charge upon participants for waiver services. MDHHS and waiver agencies do not impose a premium, enrollment fee, or similar cost sharing arrangement on waiver participants.

Although MI Choice participants must have services approved by the waiver agency, participants have the option to select any participating provider in the waiver agency's provider network, thereby assuring freedom of choice.

Where applicable, the participant must use Medicaid State Plan, Medicare, or other available payers first. The participant's preference for a certain provider or agency is not grounds for declining another payer in order to access waiver services.

Covered wavier services include:

- Adult Day Health
- Respite
- Supports Coordination
- Specialized Medical Equipment and Supplies
- Fiscal Intermediary
- Goods and Services
- Chore Services
- Community Living Supports
- Community Transition Services
- Counseling
- Environmental Accessibility Adaptations
- Home Delivered Meals
- Non-Medical Transportation
- Nursing Services
- Personal Emergency Response System
- Private Duty Nursing

The testimony and the evidence in this case indicated the services being requested fell under coverage provided by Medicare either Part B or Part D. Additionally, it was argued, the Department could not provide the requested service because they are not a covered benefit according to the MPM.

Based upon a review of the evidence provided, it does not appear that the requested item qualifies as a covered benefit. As such, the Department's denial was appropriate.

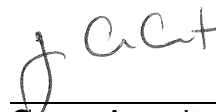
DECISION AND ORDER

The Administrative Law Judge, based on the above findings of fact and conclusions of law, decides that the Department properly denied the Petitioner's request for "Sterile Saline Flushes".

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that

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

CA/sb



Corey Arendt
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

DHHS -Dept Contact

[REDACTED]

Petitioner

[REDACTED]

DHHS -Dept Contact

[REDACTED]

Community Health Rep

[REDACTED]