



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: May 18, 2016  
MAHS Docket No.: 16-004044  
Agency No.: [REDACTED]  
Petitioner: [REDACTED]

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE:** Landis Lain

### **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]. Petitioner [REDACTED] appeared on behalf of the Petitioner. [REDACTED], Appeals Review Officer; [REDACTED], Adult Services Specialist; and [REDACTED], Adult Services Supervisor represented the Department of Health and Human Services (Department).

### **ISSUE**

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

### **FINDINGS OF FACT**

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

1. Petitioner is a Medicaid beneficiary who was receiving HHS.
2. On [REDACTED], Petitioner got married to his HHS provider.
3. Petitioner's wife continued to provide HHS to petitioner and turn in logs that she was providing the services until [REDACTED].
4. On [REDACTED], the caseworker sent Petitioner an Advance Negative Action Notice informing him that Home Help Services would be terminated, effective [REDACTED] because Petitioner has a responsible relative (spouse) who is held accountable for providing personal care services if able and available.

5. On [REDACTED], the Michigan Administrative Hearing system received a Request for Hearing to contest the Department's negative action.

### **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, 12-1-13, 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.

**Adult Services Manual (ASM) 101,  
12-1-2013, Page 1 of 4.**

Adult Services Manual (ASM) 105, 12-1-13, 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 (DHS-324) indicating a functional limitation of level 3 or greater for activities of daily living (ADL).

- Appropriate Level of Care (LOC) status.

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### **Necessity For Service**

The adult services specialist is responsible for determining the necessity and level of need for home help services based on:

- 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.

**Example:** Ms. Smith is assessed at a level 4 for bathing however she refuses to receive assistance. Ms. Smith would be eligible to receive assistance with IADL's if the assessment determines a need at a level 3 or greater.

- 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,  
12-1-13, Pages 1-3 of 3**

Adult Services Manual (ASM 120, 12-1-2013), pages 1-4 of 5 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 will 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; see RFF 1555. The form is primarily used for APS cases.
- Follow rules of confidentiality when home help cases have companion APS cases, see SRM 131 Confidentiality.

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## 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 3 level 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.

**Example:** Ms. Smith is assessed at a level 4 for bathing however she refuses to receive assistance. Ms. Smith would be eligible to receive assistance with IADLs if the assessment determined a need at a level 3 or greater.

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.

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### **Time and Task**

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

An assessment of need, at a ranking of 3 or higher, 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 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 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.

**Adult Services Manual (ASM) 120, 12-1-2013,  
Pages 1-5 of 5**

### ***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.

**ASM 120, page 6,  
ASB 2013-004 (12-1-2013)**

In the instant case the Adult Services Specialist conducted the comprehensive assessment interview and determined that Petitioner was receiving HHS from his spouse.

Based on the evidence presented, Petitioner has failed to prove, by a preponderance of evidence, that the denial of HHS was inappropriate. Petitioner's spouse is a responsible relative who was providing HHS to Petitioner. She has not been determined to be disabled. She has not been determined unable to assist Petitioner with Activities of Daily Living. She has not established that she works outside the home and is unavailable to care for Petitioner. Evidence on the record has not established that Petitioner's spouse is absent from the home for an extended period due to employment, school or other legitimate reasons. Petitioner's spouse has not established that she has disabilities of her own which prevents her from providing care to Petitioner. (ASM 120 page 6). The spouse has not established that she is unavailable or unable to provide the services to Petitioner. Though a Medical Examination Report dated [REDACTED] indicates that Petitioner's wife currently has Chronic Systolic Heart Failure Class II with a 20% ejection fraction, the Medical Examination Report is dated after the Negative Action Notice and does not address whether or not Petitioner's spouse could perform tasks for which she was being paid. Petitioner is not eligible to receive HHS under the circumstances.

Petitioner has not established by the necessary competent, substantial and material evidence on the record that his spouse does not reside in the home with him or that she is absent from the home for extended times for legitimate reasons. The evidence on the record was not sufficient to establish that the responsible adult was unable to assist Petitioner with Activities of Daily Living. The specialist provided credible, detailed

testimony regarding her observations of, and discussions with, Petitioner and his provider. Accordingly, the cancellation of Petitioner's HHS is upheld.

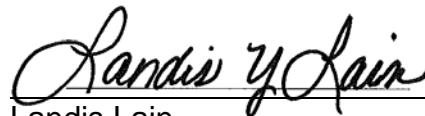
**DECISION AND ORDER**

The Administrative Law Judge, based on the above findings of fact and conclusions of law, finds that, based on the available information, the Department properly denied Petitioner's HHS.

**IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:**

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

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Landis Lain  
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

**Authorized Hearing Rep.**

[REDACTED]

**Agency Representative**

[REDACTED]

**DHHS Department Rep.**

[REDACTED]

**DHHS -Dept Contact**

[REDACTED]

**Petitioner**

[REDACTED]

**DHHS-Location Contact**

[REDACTED]