

ISSUE

Did the Department properly determine that the Petitioner does not require a Nursing Facility Level of Care?

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 REDACTEDyear-old Medicaid beneficiary, date of birth REDACTED 1980, and resident of The Laurels of Fulton, a nursing facility. (Exhibit A, p. 24)

2. Medicaid policy requires nursing facility residents to meet the medical/functional criteria initially and on an ongoing basis. The Michigan Medicaid Nursing Facility Level of Care Determination (LOCD) medical/functional criteria include seven domains of need: Activities of Daily Living, Cognitive Performance, Physician Involvement, Treatments and Conditions, Skilled Rehabilitation Therapies, Behavior, and Service Dependency. There are also Frailty Criteria. *Medicaid Provider Manual, Nursing Facility, Coverages, October 1, 2019, pp. 7-9 and Medicaid Provider Manual, Nursing Facility Level of Care Determination, October 1, 2019, pp. 1-14.*
3. A subsequent LOCD must be completed when there has been a significant change in condition that may affect the resident's current medical/functional eligibility status. *Medicaid Provider Manual, Nursing Facility Level of Care Determination Chapter, October 1, 2019, p. 5.*
4. On August 16, 2019, Petitioner was assessed under the LOCD evaluation tool and was found to be eligible for nursing facility placement based upon qualifying through Door 1. (Exhibit A, pp. 16-23)
5. On December 20, 2019, Petitioner was re-assessed under the LOCD evaluation tool and was found to be ineligible for nursing facility placement based on her failure to qualify through one of the seven doors. (Exhibit A, pp. 24-31)
6. On or about December 20, 2019, an Advance Action Notice was issued to Petitioner of the determination that she was no longer eligible for nursing facility level services based on the LOCD. (Exhibit A, p. 32)
7. On March 19, 2020, the Michigan Office of Administrative Hearings and Rules (MOAHR) received Petitioner's hearing request. (Exhibit A, p. 32)

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 Social Welfare Act, the Administrative Code, and the State Plan under Title XIX of the Social Security Act Medical Assistance Program.

Federal regulations require that Medicaid pay for services only for those beneficiaries who meet specified level of care criteria. In accordance with the federal regulations the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services ("MDHHS") implemented functional/medical eligibility criteria for Medicaid-funded long-term services and supports. This includes services in nursing facilities, the MI Choice Waiver Program, the Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE), and the MI Health Link HCBS Waiver Program. Nursing facility residents must also meet Pre-Admission

Screening/Annual Resident Review requirements. The Medicaid Provider Manual, Nursing Facilities Chapter, Coverages portion, Section 5 Beneficiary Eligibility and Admission Process, lists the policy for admission and continued eligibility process. *Medicaid Provider Manual, Nursing Facility, Coverages, October 1, 2019, pp. 7-11.* The Medicaid Provider Manual, Nursing Facility Level of Care Determination Chapter outlines functional/medical criteria requirements for Medicaid-funded long-term services and supports. *Medicaid Provider Manual, Nursing Facility Level of Care Determination, October 1, 2019, pp. 1-14.*

The Michigan Medicaid Nursing Facility Level of Care Determination (LOCD) is a "point in time" assessment; that is, it determines the individual's functional eligibility at the time of the assessment. *Medicaid Provider Manual, Nursing Facility Level of Care Determination, October 1, 2019, p. 1.* The LOCD must be conducted prior to or on the day of an individual's admission to a nursing facility or enrollment in MI Choice Waiver Program, PACE, or MI Health Link Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) Waiver Program to ensure reimbursement for a Medicaid eligible beneficiary. *Medicaid Provider Manual, Nursing Facility Level of Care Determination, October 1, 2019, p. 3.* The Medicaid long term care supports and services providers must ensure that individual meet the LOCD criteria on an ongoing basis and are responsible for conducting a new LOCD if there is a significant change in the beneficiary's condition. *Medicaid Provider Manual, Nursing Facility Level of Care Determination, October 1, 2019, p. 5.*

The LOCD Assessment Tool consists of seven-service entry Doors. The doors are: Activities of Daily Living, Cognitive Performance, Physician Involvement, Treatments and Conditions, Skilled Rehabilitative Therapies, Behavior, and Service Dependency. In order to be found eligible for Medicaid Nursing Facility placement, the Petitioner must meet the requirements of at least one Door.

Door 1
Activities of Daily Living (ADLs)

The LOCD Field Definition Guidelines (Exhibit A, pp. 34-38), provides that the Petitioner must score at least six points to qualify under Door 1. The criteria consider the type and level of assistance provided by others during the last seven days.

Scoring Door 1: The applicant must score at least six points to qualify under Door 1.

(A) Bed Mobility, (B) Transfers, and (C) Toilet Use:

- Independent or Supervision = 1
- Limited Assistance = 3
- Extensive Assistance or Total Dependence = 4
- Activity Did Not Occur = 8

(D) Eating:

- Independent or Supervision = 1

- Limited Assistance = 2
- Extensive Assistance or Total Dependence = 3
- Activity Did Not Occur = 8

For the December 20, 2019, LOCD, Petitioner was scored as independent with bed mobility, transfers, toilet use and eating. Petitioner scored a total of 4 points, which is not sufficient to qualify through Door 1. (Exhibit A, pp. 25-27; RN Testimony)

Door 2 **Cognitive Performance**

The LOCD Field Definition Guidelines (Exhibit A, pp. 38-42), provides that to qualify under Door 2 Petitioner must:

Scoring Door 2: The applicant must score under one of the following three options to qualify under Door 2.

1. "Severely Impaired" in Decision Making.
2. "Yes" for Memory Problem, and Decision Making is "Moderately Impaired" or "Severely Impaired."
3. "Yes" for Memory Problem, and Making Self Understood is "Sometimes Understood" or "Rarely/Never Understood."

Regarding Door 2, Petitioner was scored as short-term memory okay, modified independent with daily decision making, and able to make herself understood. Petitioner was able to recall items after 5 minutes. Petitioner sometimes needs reminders to brush her teeth or that sort of thing. Petitioner is very clear with making herself understood. Petitioner did not meet the criteria to qualify through Door 2. (Exhibit A, p. 27; RN Testimony)

Door 3 **Physician Involvement**

The LOCD Field Definition Guidelines (Exhibit A, pp. 42-43), indicates that to qualify under Door 3, Petitioner must:

Scoring Door 3: The applicant must meet either of the following to qualify under Door 3.

1. At least one Physician Visit for examination AND at least four Physician Order changes in the last 14 days, OR
2. At least two Physician Visits for examinations AND at least two Physician Order changes in the last 14 days.

Petitioner was scored as having 1 day with physician visit exam(s) and 1 day with physician order change(s) within the 14-day lookback period for this Door. Petitioner did not have sufficient days with physician visit examinations and physician order changes during the relevant review period. Accordingly, Petitioner did not meet the criteria to qualify through Door 3. (Exhibit A, pp. 27-28; RN Testimony)

Door 4 **Treatments and Conditions**

The LOCD Field Definition Guidelines (Exhibit A, pp. 43-44) indicates that in order to qualify under Door 4, the Petitioner must receive, within 14 days of the assessment date, any of the following health treatments or have demonstrated any of the following health conditions. Additionally, the Petitioner would no longer qualify when the condition(s) have been resolved, or no longer affect functioning or the need for care.

- A. Stage 3-4 pressure sores
- B. Intravenous or parenteral feedings
- C. Intravenous medications
- D. End-stage care
- E. Daily tracheostomy care, daily respiratory care, daily suctioning
- F. Pneumonia within the last 14 days
- G. Daily oxygen therapy
- H. Daily insulin with two order changes in last 14 days
- I. Peritoneal or hemodialysis

Scoring Door 4: The applicant must score "yes" in at least one of the nine categories and have a continuing need to qualify under Door 4.

Petitioner was scored as no for each of the listed health conditions and treatments during the 14-day review period. This was based on a review of medical records, including physician notes, nursing notes, and medications. It was noted that Petitioner's appeal mentions wound care. Door 4 does not consider wound care in general. If Petitioner had or was being treated for a stage 3-4 pressure sore during the lookback period, that would be considered for criteria A of Door 4. Petitioner's wound is not that type and is now resolved. (RN Testimony) Accordingly, Petitioner did not meet the criteria to qualify through Door 4. (Exhibit A, pp. 28 and 32; RN Testimony)

Door 5 **Skilled Rehabilitation Therapies**

The LOCD Field Definition Guidelines (Exhibit A, pp. pp. 44-45), addresses skilled rehabilitation therapies (Speech Therapy (ST), Occupational Therapy (OT), and Physical Therapy (PT), and provides that to qualify under Door 5 Petitioner must:

Scoring Door 5: The individual must have required at least 45 minutes of active PT, OT, or ST (scheduled or delivered) in the last 7 days and continues to require skilled rehabilitation therapies to qualify under Door 5.

Petitioner was scored as not having any minutes of physical, occupational, or physical therapy (administered/delivered or scheduled) during the relevant time period. Accordingly, Petitioner did not meet the criteria to qualify through Door 5. (Exhibit A, p. 28; RN Testimony)

Door 6 **Behavior**

The LOCD Field Definition Guidelines (Exhibit A, pp. 45-47), provides a listing of behaviors recognized under Door 6 (Wandering, Verbally Abusive, Physically Abusive, Socially Inappropriate/Disruptive, and Resists Care) as well as problem conditions (Delusions and Hallucinations), and provides that to qualify under Door 6 Petitioner must:

Scoring Door 6: The applicant must score under one of the following 2 options to qualify under Door 6.

- 1.A "yes" for either delusions or hallucinations within the last 7 days.
- 2.The applicant must have exhibited any one of the following behaviors for at least 4 of the last 7 days (including daily): Wandering, Verbally Abusive, Physically Abusive, Socially Inappropriate/Disruptive, or Resisted Care.

Petitioner was scored as not displaying any of the listed behavioral symptoms or problem conditions during the relevant time period based on a review of her chart. Accordingly, Petitioner did not meet the criteria to qualify through Door 6. (Exhibit A, pp. 28-29; RN Testimony)

Door 7 **Service Dependency**

The LOCD Field Definition Guidelines (Exhibit A, p. 48), addresses service dependency. This section refers to applicants who are currently residents of a Medicaid-certified nursing facility, or a current participant in MI Choice, PACE or MI Health Link. Door 7 consists of three criteria. All three criteria must be met to qualify under Door 7. The 'One Consecutive Year' requirement is defined as being a resident of a Medicaid Certified Nursing Facility or participant of MI Choice, PACE or MI Health Link for at least one year. You may combine time across these programs; however, there cannot be a

break in coverage between, or during, the beneficiary's stay. The three criteria to qualify under Door 7 are:

1. Participant for at least one consecutive year (no break in coverage)
2. Requires ongoing services to maintain current functional status
3. No other community, residential, or informal services are available to meet the needs (i.e. only the current setting can provide service needs).

Scoring Door 7: The applicant must be a current participant, demonstrate service dependency and meet all three criteria to qualify under Door 7.

Petitioner had been a participant for one consecutive year at the time of the December 20, 2019, LOCD. The RN testified that Petitioner was admitted to this facility from another nursing facility. Petitioner had been residing in a Medicaid-certified nursing facility for at least one consecutive year at the time of the December 20, 2019, LOCD. (RN Testimony) The Director of Social Services testified Petitioner had concerns with her mother being verbally abusive and did not want to return home. There were also concerns with Petitioner needing assistance with bathing using the facilities in that home. Petitioner is on the waiting list for two apartments. An agency is assisting with placement and other possible services she may need to live on her own. At the nursing facility, Petitioner receives some reminders for activities of daily living, as indicated in the scoring for Door 2. Petitioner would also need assistance setting up her medications and making sure she takes them at the right time. Referrals will be made for services to help Petitioner at home. To get Petitioner settled in at home, they would set up at least temporary services, which may include physical therapy, occupational therapy, and nursing. (Director of Social Services Testimony) Accordingly, the ongoing services Petitioner requires to maintain current functional status are available outside the current setting. Therefore, Petitioner did not meet all three criteria to qualify through Door 7.

LOCD Secondary Review

Additionally, there is an LOCD secondary review process. Medicaid Provider Manual, Nursing Facility Level of Care Determination Chapter states:

6.4 LOCD SECONDARY REVIEW

The provider or the individual (or their legal representative) may request an LOCD Secondary Review. This review is completed by MDHHS or its designee to ensure full consideration of LOCD eligibility options. The Secondary Review is available only when an LOCD is entered in CHAMPS and results in a Door 0, indicating ineligibility. The

review is a secondary review of documentation for all LOCD Doors, including Door 8.

The LOCD Secondary Review Process is conducted as follows:

- A Secondary Review may be initiated by the provider, individual or their legal representative after the qualified and licensed health professional issues an adverse action notice based on a finding of ineligibility. The provider, individual or their legal representative may request a Secondary Review from MDHHS or its designee. The individual will have three business days to make a request following written notice of the adverse action.
- In the action notice, the provider who conducted the ineligible LOCD must provide the individual with information on how to timely request a Secondary Review following an ineligible LOCD.
- Following the individual's request for review, the MDHHS designee will contact the provider who conducted the LOCD and inform them to upload documentation in CHAMPS for review.
- The provider who conducted the LOCD will upload the relevant documentation in CHAMPS within one business day of being notified to do so.
- The MDHHS designee will review the documentation, obtain information from the individual or their legal representative, if requested, and notify the provider and the individual or their legal representative of the decision.
- If the Secondary Review determines that the individual is eligible, MDHHS or its designee will contact the provider and the individual or their legal representative.
- If the Secondary Review determines that the individual is ineligible, MDHHS or its designee will issue an adverse action notice and inform the individual of their appeal rights.
- MDHHS or its designee will enter the appropriate LOCD in CHAMPS.

Door 8 addresses Frailty Criteria:

4.8 DOOR 8: FRAILITY

MDHHS or its designee determined that the beneficiary is eligible for Medicaid LTSS services based upon the Frailty Criteria. Individuals who exhibit certain behaviors and treatment characteristics that indicate frailty may be admitted or enrolled to LTSS programs requiring an LOCD. The individual needs to trigger one element of this criteria to be considered for Frailty. Refer to the Michigan Medicaid Nursing Facility Level of Care Determination Exception Process on the MDHHS website for more information. (Refer to the Directory Appendix for website information.) For the MI Health Link program, the Frailty Criteria are applied by the Integrated Care Organization.

Medicaid Provider Manual,
Nursing Facility Level of Care Determination,
October 1, 2019, p. 10

In this case, no secondary review was requested. (LOCD Policy Specialist Testimony)

Petitioner testified that she would like to find her own place and try to get help just in case she needs it. Petitioner does not really want to go back home. Petitioner did not disagree with the scoring for any of the seven Doors for the LOCD. (Petitioner Testimony)

Medicaid policy requires nursing facility residents meet the LOCD criteria initially and on an ongoing basis. Overall, the evidence does not establish that Petitioner met the criteria for any of the seven Doors at the time of the December 20, 2019, LOCD. Accordingly, the Department properly determined that Petitioner was not eligible for Medicaid to cover nursing facility services at that time.

DECISION AND ORDER

The Administrative Law Judge, based on the above Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, decides that the Department correctly determined that the Petitioner did not require Medicaid Nursing Facility Level of Care at the time of the December 20, 2019, LOCD.

IT IS, THEREFORE, ORDERED that:

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