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GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS
MICHIGAN OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS AND RULES

ORLENE HAWKS
DIRECTOR

[REDACTED]
MI [REDACTED]

Date Mailed: August 25, 2021
MOAHR Docket No.: 21-003507
Agency No.: [REDACTED]
Petitioner: [REDACTED]

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE: Robert J. Meade

DECISION AND ORDER

This matter is before the undersigned Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) pursuant to MCL 400.9 and 42 CFR 431.200 *et seq.*, upon Petitioner's request for a hearing.

After due notice, a telephone hearing was held on August 24, 2021. Petitioner appeared and testified on his own behalf. Leigha Burghdoff, Appeals Review Officer, appeared on behalf of Respondent, Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS or Department). Kim Hanson, Medicaid Utilization Analyst, appeared as a witness for the Department.

ISSUE

Did the Department properly deny Petitioner's request for prior authorization (PA) for complete upper and lower dentures?

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 [REDACTED]-year-old Medicaid beneficiary, born [REDACTED] 1958. (Exhibit A, p 8; Testimony)
2. On May 12, 2021, Petitioner's dentist sought approval for complete upper and lower dentures for Petitioner. (Exhibit A, p 8; Testimony)
3. Records show that Petitioner was approved for a complete upper denture through Medicaid on or about November 20, 2017, and a lower partial denture on January 19, 2018. (Exhibit A, pp 11-12; Testimony)
4. On July 15, 2021, the request for complete upper and lower dentures was reviewed and denied because Petitioner was shown to have received dentures within the last five years. (Exhibit A, pp 6-7; Testimony)

5. On July 15, 2021, the Department sent Petitioner a Notice of Denial, including Petitioner's appeal rights. (Exhibit A, pp 6-7; Testimony)
6. On July 27, 2021, the Michigan Office of Administrative Hearings and Rules (MOAHR) received Petitioner's Request for Hearing. (Exhibit A, p 5)

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.

Medicaid Policy in Michigan is found in the Medicaid Provider Manual (MPM). With regard to prior authorizations, it states, in pertinent part:

SECTION 2 – PRIOR AUTHORIZATION

Prior authorization (PA) is required for services identified in this chapter and the Medicaid Code and Rate Reference tool. For questions about medically necessary dental services beyond those described in this chapter, providers should contact the MDHHS Program Review Division (PRD). (Refer to the Directory Appendix for website and contact information.)

* * *

2.2 COMPLETION INSTRUCTIONS

The Dental Prior Approval Authorization Request form (MSA-1680-B) is used to obtain authorization. An electronic fill-in enabled version of the MSA-1680-B is available on the MDHHS website. (Refer to the Directory Appendix for website information.)

Providers should use the appropriate CDT code(s) on all PA requests. When requesting medically necessary services for which there is no procedure code, the Not Otherwise Classified (NOC) code is used. Services requested under NOC codes require PA. The MSA-1680-B should only include the procedure(s) that requires PA.

* * *

July 1, 2021¹, p 4

Under the general policy instructions for Medicaid related dental services the MPM sets replacement schedules for denture repair and replacement:

6.6 PROSTHODONTICS (REMOVABLE)

6.6.A. GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

Complete dentures, immediate complete dentures, and partial dentures are benefits for all beneficiaries and require PA. Complete or partial dentures are prior authorized when one or more of the following conditions exist:

- One or more anterior teeth are missing.
- There are less than eight posterior teeth in occlusion (fixed bridges and dentures are to be considered occluding teeth).

Providers must assess the beneficiary's general oral health and provide a five-year prognosis for the complete or partial denture requested. The provider is expected to evaluate whether the treatment is appropriate for the individual beneficiary, and assess the probability of delivering removable dentures and the beneficiary's compliance with follow-up care.

It is the provider's responsibility to discuss the treatment plan with the beneficiary, including any applicable frequency limits and other pertinent information related to the proposed services, and obtain the beneficiary's agreement with the proposed treatment plan. Documentation of the beneficiary's agreement must be retained in the beneficiary's dental record.

Full mouth/complete series radiographs must be submitted with PA requests for partial dentures. Radiographs are not required to be submitted with PA requests for complete dentures. MDHHS reserves the right to request radiographs if necessary. The following information must be submitted with the MSA-1680-B:

- The appropriate CDT code(s) for the service(s) requested.
- Completed tooth chart documenting missing teeth and teeth that will be extracted.

¹ The July 1, 2021 MPM language was used to include information from MSA 21-02, which was effective April 1, 2021. The language from MSA 21-02 does not appear in the April 1, 2021 MPM Dental Chapter.

- Documentation of the soundness of the remaining teeth, if applicable.
- Five-year prognosis for the denture.
- Any pertinent health information (e.g., co-existing health conditions, pregnancy, etc.) that may impact the proposed treatment plan.

PA determinations are made based on review of the documentation submitted and do not guarantee reimbursement. The dentist is responsible for ensuring the completeness and accuracy of all documentation and tooth charting submitted with a PA request. Documentation errors resulting in improper payments may be subject to recovery of reimbursement by MDHHS regardless of authorization.

The following documentation must be retained in the beneficiary's dental record and made available to MDHHS upon request:

- Beneficiary understanding and agreement that another denture is not a covered benefit for five years.
- Beneficiary education addressing all available treatment options and documentation of the beneficiary's understanding and agreement.

Before the final impressions are taken for the fabrication of a denture, adequate healing necessary to support the denture must take place following the completion of extractions and/or surgical procedures.

When billing for a complete or partial denture, the date of service is the date the denture was delivered to the beneficiary. Reimbursement for a complete or partial denture includes all necessary adjustments, relines, repairs, duplication, etc. within six months of insertion.

Complete or partial dentures are not authorized when:

- Medicaid or Medicaid Managed Care has provided a denture in the same arch within five years.
- An adjustment, reline, repair, or rebase will make the current denture serviceable.
- A complete or partial denture obtained through Medicaid within five years has been lost or broken.

*Medicaid Provider Manual
Dental Chapter
July 1, 2021², pp 23-24
Emphasis added*

The Department witness testified that Petitioner's request was denied for failure to meet policy requirements for denture replacement on a five-year rotation. According to Department records, Petitioner was approved for a complete upper denture through Medicaid on or about November 20, 2017, and a lower partial denture through Medicaid on January 19, 2018.

Petitioner testified that when he went to the dentist, he did not need an upper denture, he only needed a new lower denture, and that was all he asked for. Petitioner testified that his dentist told him that it would be better if the dentist removed all of Petitioner's lower teeth and Petitioner got a complete lower denture. Petitioner indicated that the dentist told him it would be covered by his insurance so he went ahead and let the dentist remove his lower teeth, only to then find out that he could not get a lower complete denture through Medicaid. Petitioner testified that he had no control over the situation, but he is the one suffering the consequences. Petitioner indicated that he does not like walking around with no teeth in his mouth.

In response, the Department's witness indicated that Petitioner should call the Medicaid fraud hotline at 1-855-643-7283 and report the dentist for pulling his lower teeth without first getting prior authorization for the complete lower denture.

On review, the Department's decision to deny the request for complete upper and lower dentures was reached within policy. Petitioner was approved for a complete upper denture through Medicaid on or about November 20, 2017 and a lower partial denture through Medicaid on January 19, 2018. As such, Petitioner is not eligible for replacement of his upper denture until November 2022 and his lower denture until January 2023. As indicated above, Petitioner should immediately call the Medicaid fraud hotline at 1-855-643-7283 and report the dentist for telling him that a lower denture would be covered without first seeking prior authorization. However, based on the evidence presented and available to the Department at the time the decision was made, the Department's decision was proper and must be upheld.

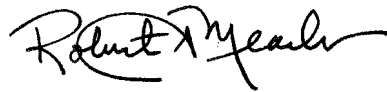
² *Id.*

DECISION AND ORDER

The Administrative Law Judge, based on the above findings of fact and conclusions of law, decides that the Department properly denied Petitioner's request for prior authorization for complete upper and lower dentures.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that:

The Department's decision is AFFIRMED.



RM/sb

Robert J. Meade
Administrative Law Judge

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 Office of Administrative Hearings and Rules (MOAHR).

A party may request a rehearing or reconsideration of this Order if the request is received by MOAHR 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. MOAHR will not review any response to a request for rehearing/reconsideration.

A written request may be mailed or faxed to MOAHR. If submitted by fax, the written request must be faxed to (517) 763-0155; Attention: MOAHR Rehearing/Reconsideration Request.

If submitted by mail, the written request must be addressed as follows:

Michigan Office of Administrative Hearings and Rules
Reconsideration/Rehearing Request
P.O. Box 30763
Lansing, Michigan 48909-8139

DHHS -Dept Contact

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