



GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

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

MARLON BROWN
DIRECTOR



Date Mailed: September 13, 2024
MOAHR Docket No.: 24-005011
Agency No.: [REDACTED]
Petitioner: [REDACTED]

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE: Robert J. Meade

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 Petitioner's request for a hearing.

After due notice, a hearing was held on September 12, 2024. [REDACTED] Petitioner, appeared and testified on his own behalf. Leigha Klaver, Appeals Review Officer, appeared on behalf of Respondent, Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS or Department). Norshell Mack, Adult Services Supervisor, appeared as a witness for the Department.

ISSUE

Did the Department properly terminate Petitioner's 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 has been receiving HHS since January 5, 2015. (Exhibit A, p 9; Testimony)
2. Petitioner is diagnosed with gait abnormality and weakness caused by the accidental discharge of a firearm. (Exhibit A, p 11; Testimony)
3. On April 30, 2024, the ASW completed a six-month assessment with Petitioner at Petitioner's home. During the assessment, the ASW determined that Petitioner did not have a need for hands on assistance with any Activities of Daily Living (ADL), functional ranking 3 or greater, but may have a need for assistance with the Instrumental Activities of Daily Living (IADL's) of cooking and cleaning. The ASW noted that Petitioner was observed walking up and down stairs without any assistance or adaptive equipment.

The ASW noted that Petitioner indicated that he needs assistance with

“everything” but when asked to be more specific, Petitioner indicated that he needs help with cooking and cleaning. The ASW also indicated that Petitioner informed her that he was able to bathe, dress, groom and feed himself independently. The ASW noted that per her observations of Petitioner during the assessment, it did not appear that he would need any assistance with any ADL’s. (Exhibit A, p 17; Testimony)

4. On May 1, 2024, the ASW sent Petitioner a Negative Action Notice indicating that HHS was terminated based on the policy requiring a need for hands on assistance with at least one ADL, functional ranking 3 or greater. (Exhibit A, p 14; Testimony)
5. On May 9, 2024¹, Petitioner’s hearing request was received by the Michigan Office of Administrative Hearings and Rules. (Exhibit A, p 8)

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.

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 physician and may be provided by individuals or by private or public agencies.

The Adult Services Manual (ASM) address issues of what services are included in Home Help Services and how such services are assessed:

ASM 101 AVAILABLE SERVICES

Payment Services Home Help

Home help services are non-specialized personal care service activities provided under the home help 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

¹ Petitioner initially failed to appear for a hearing scheduled for June 11, 2024 and his case was dismissed. The Order dismissing his case was later vacated per Petitioner’s request and rescheduled for September 12, 2024.

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 worker.

Home help services which are eligible for Title XIX funding are limited to:

Activities of Daily Living (ADL)

- Eating.
- Toileting.
- Bathing.
- Grooming.
- Dressing.
- Transferring.
- Mobility.

Instrumental Activities of Daily Living (IADL)

- Taking medication.
- Meal preparation/cleanup.
- Shopping for food and other necessities of daily living.
- Laundry.
- Light housecleaning.

An individual must be assessed with at least one activity of daily living (ADL) ranked 3 or higher or complex care need 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.

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 101
April 1, 2018, pp 1-2, 5
Emphasis added*

ASM 105 ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

GENERAL

Requirements

Home help eligibility requirements include **all** of the following:

- Medicaid eligibility.
- Appropriate program enrollment type (PET) code.
- 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).

Certification of Medical Need

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 10-10M are acceptable for individuals treated by a VA physician; see ASM 115, Adult Services Requirements.

Need For Service

The adult services worker (ASW) is responsible for determining the necessity and level of need for home help services based on all of the following:

- Client choice.
- A completed MDHHS-5534, 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.

*Adult Services Manual 105
June 1, 2020, pp 1, 3
Emphasis added*

ASM 115 ADULT SERVICES REQUIREMENTS

MDHHS-5534, ADULT SERVICES COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENT

The ASW must conduct a face-to-face interview with the client in their home to assess the personal care needs. During the assessment, complete the MDHHS-5534, Adult Services Comprehensive Assessment, generated from MiAIMS; see ASM 120, Adult Services Comprehensive Assessment.

CLIENT AND PROVIDER CONTACTS

Within the Contacts module of MiAIMS, the following contact types are available:

- Face-to-face.
- Telephone.
- Miscellaneous.
- Email.
- Text.
- Case conference with supervisor.
- Narrative entry only.

The ASW must document all contacts between the ASW, client, provider, and collateral contacts in MiAIMS. The ASW must, at a minimum, have a face-to-face interview with the client, prior to case opening, and then every six months in the client's home for the review.

*Adult Services Manual 115
May 1, 2023, p 4*

ASM 120 ADULT SERVICES COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENT

OVERVIEW

The MDDHS-5534, Adult Services Comprehensive Assessment, is the primary tool for determining a client's need for services. The comprehensive assessment must be completed on **all open Home Help services cases**. The Michigan Adult Integrated Management System (MiAIMS), provides the format for the comprehensive assessment and all information must be entered on the computer program.

Functional Tab

The *Functional* Tab under the *Assessment* module of MiAIMS is the basis for service planning and for the home help services payment. Document the client's abilities and needs in the *Functional* tab 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 ranked 3 or higher or a complex care need 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.

*Adult Services Manual 120
May 1, 2023, pp 1-3
Emphasis added*

The ASW testified that on April 30, 2024, she completed a six-month assessment with Petitioner at Petitioner's home. The ASW indicated that during the assessment, she determined that Petitioner did not have a need for hands on assistance with any ADL, functional ranking 3 or greater, but may have a need for assistance with the IADL's of cooking and cleaning. The ASW noted that Petitioner was observed walking up and down stairs without any assistance or adaptive equipment. The ASW noted that Petitioner indicated that he needs assistance with "everything" but when asked to be more specific, Petitioner indicated that he needs help with cooking and cleaning. The ASW also indicated that Petitioner informed her that he was able to bathe, dress, groom and feed himself independently.

The ASW noted that per her observations of Petitioner during the assessment, it did not appear that he would need any assistance with any ADL's.

The ASW testified that based on the information available at the time of the assessment, she concluded that Petitioner did not have a medical need, functional ranking of 3 or higher, with any ADL. The ASW indicated that on May 1, 2024, she sent Petitioner a Negative Action Notice indicating that HHS was being terminated based on the policy requiring a need for hands on assistance with at least one ADL, functional ranking 3 or greater, to qualify for HHS.

Petitioner testified that he does need help with cooking and cleaning but also with bathing because his right arm is messed up. Petitioner indicated that his caregiver helps him wash his back mostly. Petitioner testified that he probably did not hear the ASW correctly during the assessment because he is hard of hearing. Petitioner indicated that he has an appointment to get his hearing addressed in October.

Based on the evidence presented, Petitioner has failed to prove, by a preponderance of the evidence, that the Department erred in terminating his HHS. The evidence was not sufficient to establish that Petitioner had a need for hands on assistance, functional ranking 3 or greater, with at least one ADL, based on the information available to the ASW for this assessment. The ASW provided credible, detailed testimony regarding her discussion of ADL's with Petitioner and her observations of Petitioner during the assessment. Petitioner did not inform the ASW that he needed any hands-on assistance with any ADL's, only that his caregiver assisted him with cooking and cleaning. Petitioner cannot receive assistance with IADL's such as cooking and cleaning unless he also needs hands-on assistance, functional ranking 3 or higher, with at least one ADL. Accordingly, the termination of Petitioner's HHS was proper and must be upheld.

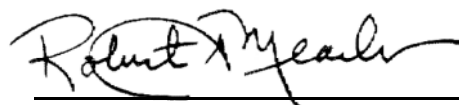
If Petitioner does need assistance with one or more ADL's, such as bathing, he can reapply for HHS at any time.

DECISION AND ORDER

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

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that:

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



Robert J. Meade
Administrative Law Judge

RM/sj

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

PROOF OF SERVICE

I certify that I served a copy of the foregoing document upon all parties, to their last known addresses in the manner specified below, this 13th day of September 2024.

S. James

S. James
**Michigan Office of Administrative
Hearings and Rules**

Via Electronic & First Class Mail:

Petitioner

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] MI [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Authorized Hearing Representative

[REDACTED]
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