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GOVERNOR

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

ORLENE HAWKS
DIRECTOR



Date Mailed: March 16, 2020
MOAHR Docket No.: 20-000328
Agency No.: [REDACTED]
Petitioner: [REDACTED]

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE: Steven Kibit

DECISION AND ORDER

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

After due notice, a telephone hearing was held on March 11, 2020. Petitioner appeared and testified on his own behalf. Theresa Root, Appeals Review Officer, represented the Respondent Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS or Department). Brigeda Nelson, Adult Services Worker (ASW), testified as a witness for the Department.

During the hearing, the Department submitted an evidence packet that was admitted into the record as Exhibit A, pages 1-27. No other proposed exhibits were submitted.

ISSUE

Did the Department properly deny Petitioner's request 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 has been referred for HHS through the Department. (Exhibit A, page 8).
2. As part of his application, Petitioner submitted a Medical Needs form signed by his doctor on July 2, 2019. (Exhibit A, page 13).
3. In that form, Petitioner's doctor identified Petitioner's diagnoses as alcohol abuse, bipolar disorder, depression, and paranoid schizophrenia. (Exhibit A, page 13).

4. The doctor also certified that Petitioner has a medical need for personal care activities. (Exhibit A, page 13).
5. Petitioner's doctor further specifically circled the Activity of Daily Living (ADL) of grooming and the Instrumental Activities of Daily Living (IADLs) of taking medications, meal preparation, shopping, laundry, and housework. (Exhibit A, page 13).
6. On November 19, 2019, the ASW spoke with Petitioner's doctor for clarification of the Medical Needs form; with the doctor indicating that his recommendation was based on Petitioner's mental status, rather than any physical disability, and Petitioner's need for supervision or monitoring when completing some tasks. (Exhibit A, page 11; Testimony of ASW).
7. The doctor also noted that Petitioner was observed walking independently and did not have any need for assistance with mobility. (Exhibit A, page 11; Testimony of ASW).
8. On November 27, 2019, the ASW completed a comprehensive assessment with Petitioner in Petitioner's home. (Exhibit A, pages 8-9).
9. Petitioner was seated in a wheelchair during the assessment, but he could not say why he needed a wheelchair and, instead, only pointed to his Medical Needs form. (Exhibit A, page 8; Testimony of ASW).
10. The ASW then noted that the form did not identify any physical disabilities, a need for a wheelchair, or any need for assistance with mobility. (Exhibit A, page 8; Testimony of ASW).
11. She also advised Petitioner to submit any additional documentation regarding a need for a wheelchair or assistance with mobility by December 2, 2019. (Exhibit A, page 8; Testimony of ASW).
12. No additional medical documentation was provided by Petitioner. (Exhibit A, page 5-6; Testimony of ASW).
13. On December 3, 2019, the Department sent Petitioner written notice that his request for HHS was denied because he did not score as a three or above with respect to any ADLs, which is required to meet the criteria for HHS. (Exhibit A, pages 5-6).
14. On January 27, 2020, the Michigan Office Administrative Hearings and Rules (MOAHR) received the request for hearing filed in this matter with respect to that decision. (Exhibit A, page 4).

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 statutes, 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.

Adult Services Manual (ASM) 101 (4-1-2018) and ASM 120 (2-1-2019) address the issue of what services are included in HHS and how such services are assessed. For example, ASM 101 provides in part:

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.

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 specialist.

Personal care 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) 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 [sic] if the assessment determines a need at a level 3 or greater.

Note: If an individual uses adaptive equipment to assist with an ADL, and without the use of this equipment the person would require hands-on care, the individual must be ranked a level 3 or greater on the functional assessment. This individual would be eligible to receive home help services.

Example: Mr. Jones utilizes a transfer bench to get in and out of the bathtub which allows him to bathe himself without the hands-on assistance of another. The adult services specialist must rank Mr. Jones a 3 or greater under the functional assessment. Mr. Jones would be eligible to receive home help services.

Assistive technology would include such items as walkers, wheelchairs, canes, reachers, lift chairs, bath benches, grab bars and handheld showers.

* * *

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.

ASM 101, pages 1-3, 4-5

Moreover, ASM 120 states in part:

Functional Abilities Tab

The **Functional** Tab under **Assessment** module in MiAIMS is the basis for service planning and for Home Help services payment.

Document the client's abilities and needs in the functional abilities 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 3 level or greater.

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

Example: Ms. Smith is assessed at a level 4 for bathing however she refuses to receive assistance, or her daughter agrees to assist her at no charge. Ms. Smith would be eligible to receive assistance with IADL's [sic] if the assessment determines a need at a level 3 or greater.

Note: If an individual uses adaptive equipment to assist with an ADL, and without the use of this equipment the person would require hands-on care, the individual must be ranked a level 3 or greater on the functional tab under assessment. This individual would be eligible to receive home help services.

Example: Mr. Jones utilizes a transfer bench to get in and out of the bathtub, which allows him to bathe himself without the hands-on assistance of another. The adult services worker (ASW) must rank Mr. Jones a 3 or greater under the functional abilities tab. Mr. Jones would be eligible to receive home help services.

Assistive technology includes such items as walkers, wheelchairs, canes, reachers, lift chairs, bath benches, grab bars and hand-held showers.

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.

Complex Care Needs

Complex care refers to conditions requiring intervention with special techniques and/or knowledge. These complex care tasks are performed on client's whose diagnoses or conditions require more management. The conditions may also require special treatment and equipment for which specific instructions by a health professional or client may be required in order to perform.

- Eating and feeding.
- Catheters or legs bags.
- Colostomy care.
- Bowel program.
- Suctioning.
- Specialized skin care.
- Range of motion exercises.
- Peritoneal dialysis.
- Wound care.
- Respiratory treatment.
- Ventilators.
- Injections.

When assessing a client with complex care needs, refer to the MDHHS-5535, Complex Care Assessment, from MiAIMS forms for assistance with activity ranking, frequency, and length of time needed.

Time and Task

The specialist will allocate time for each task assessed a rank of 3 or greater, 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 is built into the functional assessment tab within MiAIMS for each task.

MiAIMS has a client centered time and task based off the assessment abilities and what the client's needs are. Also a caregiver time and task based off client choice of activities to be performed by their chosen provider. Client time and task may be different from caregiver time and task due to client choice. Client time and task offer the maximum RTS based off the client assessment need. Caregiver time and task can have the same RTS or less.

Note: This allows flexibility for client choice while also assuring the basic needs are being met. Caregiver must correctly document what tasks they are performing and will only be paid for tasks that are performed and approved.

Example: Miss. Smith has been assessed to need bathing assistance. However she does not want her provider to assist her with bathing. Miss. Smith continues to do bathing on her own with difficulty. Miss. Smith's time and task will have bathing allocated, but bathing will not be in her provider's time and task.

An assessment of need, at a ranking of 3 or greater, 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 suggested under the RTS for eating.

Example: On a good day, it takes the caregiver or agency provider 10 minutes to dress Miss Jones. On a bad day, when Miss Jones is in a lot of pain, it can take the caregiver or agency provider 20 minutes to assist Miss Jones with dressing. The average daily time needed is 15 minutes. Therefore 15 minutes is what is entered in the time and task.

Example: Sally is assessed needing an average of 20 minutes a day for bathing and reports frequency of 4 days a week. However, one day during the week, Sally was not feeling well and decided to skip her bath. The next day the caregiver assisted Sally with bathing in the morning and in the evening due to illness. Both bathing activities totaled 20 minutes each. The frequency shows the caregiver only completed three days of bathing due to documentation restrictions. However, the caregiver assisted in four bathing occurrences during that week with one day having completed two baths.

Note: It is important to understand that each day a client may have different needs due to their health restrictions.

Therefore, average time and frequency may vary due to changes in client's needs.

IADL Maximum Allowable Hours

There are monthly maximum hour limits on all instrumental activities of daily living (IADL) 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.

ASM 120, pages 2-7

As described in the above policy, an individual is only eligible to receive HHS in general, or with any IADLs in particular, if he or she has a need for assistance with at least one ADL at a level 3 or greater on the functional scale.

In this case, the Department decided to deny Petitioner's request for HHS on the basis that Petitioner did not have a need for assistance with any ADLs at a level 3 or greater

on the functional scale. Specifically, the ASW testified and wrote in her notes that, while Petitioner's doctor initially identified a need for assistance with the ADL of grooming and Petitioner initially reported a need for assistance with the ADL of mobility, the medical documentation in this case did not identify any diagnoses that would limit Petitioner physically; Petitioner's doctor subsequently confirmed that Petitioner did not need any physical assistance with ADLs; and, despite being given more time to submit additional medical documentation, Petitioner did not provide any other medical records even suggesting that he had a need for assistance with ADLs.

In response, Petitioner testified that he has an updated Medical Needs form and additional medical documentation that demonstrates his need for physical assistance with ADLs due to spinal pain or a fractured spine. He also indicated that all of his new documentation was from January of 2020. He further testified that he does not know why the doctor who filled out the Medical Needs form in this case did not identify Petitioner's physical conditions.

Petitioner bears the burden of proving by a preponderance of the evidence that the Department erred in denying his request for HHS. Moreover, the undersigned Administrative Law Judge is limited to reviewing the Department's decision in light of the information that was available at the time the decision was made.

Given the available information and applicable policies in this case, Petitioner has failed to meet that burden of proof and the Department's decision must be affirmed. It is undisputed that, Petitioner, during the initial visit, and his doctor, in the Medical Needs form, both identified a need for assistance with ADLs for Petitioner and that Petitioner has received HHS in the past. However, the fact that Petitioner received HHS in the past is irrelevant; the doctor later clarified that the assistance he was describing with respect to the ADL of grooming was supervision and monitoring, which only ranks as a "2" on the applicable Functional Scale; the doctor expressly reported that Petitioner has no need for a wheelchair or assistance with mobility; and Petitioner did not support his claims with respect to mobility with any medical documentation, despite being given further opportunity to do so.

Moreover, while Petitioner testified that he now has additional medical documentation demonstrating his need for physical assistance with ADLs, that information is all from January of 2020 and the undersigned Administrative Law Judge is limited to reviewing the Department's decision in light of the information that was available at the time the decision was made.

To the extent Petitioner has additional or updated information to provide regarding his need for services, he can always request services again in the future. With respect to the issue in this case however, the Department's decision is affirmed given the information available at the time.

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 HHS.

IT IS, THEREFORE, ORDERED that:

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



SK/sb

Steven Kibit
Administrative Law Judge
for Robert Gordon, 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 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

Michelle Martin
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