

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] MI 4 [REDACTED]

Date Mailed: July 27, 2020  
MOAHR Docket No.: 20-002056  
Agency No.: [REDACTED]  
Petitioner: [REDACTED]

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE: Colleen Lack**

**DECISION AND ORDER**

Following Petitioner's request for a hearing, this matter is before the undersigned Administrative Law Judge pursuant to MCL 400.9 and 400.37; 7 CFR 273.15 to 273.18; 42 CFR 431.200 *et seq*; 42 CFR 438.400 *et seq*; and Mich Admin Code, R 792.11002.

After due notice, a hearing was held on June 2, 2020. [REDACTED], the Petitioner, appeared on her own behalf. Allison Pool, Appeals Review Officer (ARO), represented the Department of Health and Human Services (Department). Redonda Williams, Adult Services Supervisor, appeared as a witness for the Department. Leigha Burghdoff, ARO, was present as an observer.

During the hearing proceeding, the Department's Hearing Summary packet was admitted as Exhibit A, pp. 1-38.

**ISSUE**

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

**FINDINGS OF FACT**

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

1. On February 11, 2020, the Department received a referral for HHS for Petitioner. (Exhibit A, p. 8)
2. Petitioner's doctor completed a DHS-54A Medical Needs form on February 3, 2020. The listed diagnoses appear to be low back pain, bilateral knee pain, degenerative joint disease of knees, asthma, bipolar disorder, and right hip pain. In field I, the doctor certified that Petitioner had a medical need for assistance

with listed personal care activities. The activities of meal preparation, shopping, laundry, and housework were circled. (Exhibit A, p. 13)

3. On February 26, 2020, an Adult Services Worker (ASW) went to Petitioner's home and completed an initial assessment with Petitioner and her proposed caregiver. In part, the ASW went over the Activities of Daily Living (ADLs) and Instrumental Activities of Daily Living (IADLs) included in the HHS program. (Exhibit A, p. 12)
4. On February 26, 2020, the Department sent Petitioner an Advance Negative Action Notice informing her that HHS was denied based on the assessment not identifying a need for hands on assistance with an ADL. (Exhibit A, p. 7)
5. On March 18, 2020, Petitioner's Request for Hearing was received by the Michigan Office of Administrative Hearings and Rules (MOAHR). (Exhibit A, p. 6)

### **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, addresses HHS payments:

#### **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 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.

\*\*\*

***Complex Care***

Complex care refers to conditions requiring intervention with special techniques and/or knowledge. These complex care tasks are performed on clients 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 or feeding assistance.
- Catheters or leg bags.
- Colostomy care.
- Bowel program.
- Suctioning.
- Specialized skin care.
- Range of motion exercises.
- Dialysis (In-home).
- Wound care.
- Respiratory treatment.
- Ventilators.
- Injections.

\*\*\*

#### 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 (ASM) 101,  
April 1, 2018, pp. 1-5

Adult Services Manual (ASM) 120, addresses the adult services comprehensive assessment:

### **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.

**Note:** If there are worker safety issues related to meeting the client in the home, a policy exception may be requested from the Home Help Policy program office to conduct the visit at another setting.

- 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.
- 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. This form is primarily used for APS cases.
- Follow rules of confidentiality when Home Help cases have companion Adult Protective Services cases; see SRM 131, Confidentiality.

\*\*\*

### **Functional Abilities Tab**

The **Functional** Tab under **Assessment** module in MiAIMS is the basis for service planning and for the 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 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 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 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, reaches, 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 Complex Care Assessment MDHHS 5535 from MiAIMS forms for assistance with activity ranking, frequency, and length of time needed.

### Time and Task

The ASW will allocate time for each task assessed a rank of 3 or greater, based on interviews with the client and caregiver, 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. ASW's should modify how much time is needed based on clients' documented need.

MiAIMS includes a client centered time and task based on the assessment of client's needs. MiAIMS also has a provider time and task based on client choice of activities to be performed by their chosen provider. Client time and task may be different from provider time and task due to client choice. Client time and task offers the maximum approved time based on the client's assessed need. Provider time and task can have the same hours or less depending on client request, multiple providers, or flexibility of schedules.

**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 approved on the authorized time and task.

**Example:** Miss Smith has been assessed to need bathing assistance. However, she does not want her caregiver or agency 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 ASW must assess each task according to the average time and frequency required for its completion.**

**Example:** A client needs assistance with cutting up food. The ASW 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 adjoined 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.

### ***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 contact module on MiAIMS.

**Example:** Mrs. Smith needs Home Help services. Her spouse is employed and is out of the home Monday thru Friday from 7a.m. to 7p.m. The ASW would not approve hours for shopping, laundry or house cleaning as Mr. Smith is responsible for these tasks.

Adult Services Manual (ASM) 120,  
February 1, 2019, pp. 1-7

Petitioner's doctor completed a DHS-54A Medical Needs form on February 3, 2020. The listed diagnoses appear to be low back pain, bilateral knee pain, degenerative joint disease of knees, asthma, bipolar disorder, and right hip pain. In field I, the doctor certified that Petitioner had a medical need for assistance with listed personal care activities. The activities of meal preparation, shopping, laundry, and housework were circled. (Exhibit A, p. 13) Under the above cited ASM policies, these are all categorized as IADL activities.

On February 26, 2020, an ASW went to Petitioner's home and completed an initial assessment with Petitioner and her proposed caregiver. In part, the ASW went over the ADLs and IADLs included in the HHS program. The ASW understood that while Petitioner allows someone to do tasks for her, Petitioner can do some tasks. For example, Petitioner stated she could make up her bed and does not have any issues with grooming or any other ADL tasks. The ASW's note indicates Petitioner stated that she requires assistance with housework, shopping, meals and laundry. The ASW also noted that while Petitioner stated she cannot walk, the DHS-54A Medical Needs form was marked that Petitioner is not non-ambulatory. (Exhibit A, pp. 12-13)

The ASW ranked Petitioner at functional level 3 or greater with only IADL activities: housework, laundry, meal preparation, shopping, and travel for shopping. (Exhibit A, p. 11) The ASW determined that Petitioner was not eligible for the HHS program because she did not have a need for assistance at functional ranking 3 or greater with at least one ADL activity. (Exhibit A, pp. 7-8 and 11-12) Accordingly on February 26, 2020, the Department sent Petitioner an Advance Negative Action Notice informing her that HHS was denied based on the assessment not identifying a need for hands on assistance with an ADL. (Exhibit A, p. 7)

Petitioner testified that she has been diagnosed with arthritis and she has pain. Petitioner believes that the ASW that came to her home was very uncomfortable with her. The ASW was not trying to assess her pain. Petitioner was in a wheelchair during the ASW's visit. Petitioner is on a cane and cannot go up and down stairs. Petitioner also has a walker. Petitioner told the ASW she was on medication for pain and arthritis. Petitioner told the ASW that she needs help and has someone helping her with everything the ASW's notes indicate Petitioner said no to. Petitioner has help with medications, meal preparation, and cannot walk up and down the stairs. There are about 3 steps Petitioner has to go up and down by each of the doors to get in and out of the home. Petitioner's 13 year old daughter cannot help and had just been diagnosed

with rheumatoid arthritis. The ASW did not want to hear that Petitioner and her daughter need help. Petitioner testified that she has a cane she uses every day. Petitioner's cane has a single end, rather than a pronged end. Petitioner acknowledged that she told the ASW she needs assistance with housework, shopping, laundry, and meal preparation. Petitioner stated that her doctor has been seeing her for 8 years and comes to her home every month. This doctor knows Petitioner's needs very well. (Petitioner Testimony)

Overall, the information available to the ASW for this assessment did not establish that Petitioner had a need for assistance at functional ranking level 3 or greater with at least one ADL or a complex care activity. It was not disputed that Petitioner would have needs for assistance with IADL activities, including housework, laundry, shopping, and meal preparation. However, the above cited ASM policies do not allow for an HHS case to be opened without a need for hands on assistance (functional ranking level 3 or greater) with at least one ADL or complex care activity. The ASW's opinion was consistent with the DHS-54A Medical Needs form completed by Petitioner's doctor, which indicated Petitioner only had a medical need for assistance with the IADLs of housework, shopping, laundry, and meal preparation. Accordingly, the Department's February 26, 2020, determination to deny Petitioner's HHS referral is upheld based on the information available to the Department at that time.

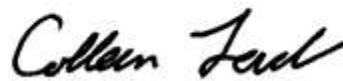
### **DECISION AND ORDER**

The Administrative Law Judge, based on the above findings of fact and conclusions of law, decides that the Department properly denied Petitioner's February 11, 2020, Home Help Services (HHS) referral based on the information available at the time of the determination.

**IT IS, THEREFORE, ORDERED** that:

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

CL/dh



---

**Colleen Lack**  
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  
Capitol Commons  
6th Floor  
Lansing, MI 48909

**DHHS-Location Contact**

Sherry Reid  
Oakman Adult Services  
3040 W. Grand Blvd., Suite L450  
Detroit, MI 48202

**DHHS Department Rep.**

M. Carrier  
Appeals Section  
PO Box 30807  
Lansing, MI 48933

**Agency Representative**

Allison Pool  
222 N Washington Square  
Suite 100  
Lansing, MI 48933

**Petitioner**

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