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Date Mailed: January 28, 2022
MOAHR Docket No.: 21-005880
Agency No.: [REDACTED]
Petitioner: [REDACTED]

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE: Corey Arendt

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 the Petitioner's request for a hearing.

After due notice, a hearing was held on January 27, 2022. Petitioner appeared on his own behalf. John Lambert, Appeals Review Officer, appeared on behalf of the Respondent, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (Department). Erica Titov, Medicaid Utilization Agent, appeared as a witness for the Department.

Exhibits:

Petitioner	None
Department	A – Hearing Summary

ISSUE

Did the Department properly deny Petitioner's request for prior authorization (PA) for a lower partial denture?

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, born [REDACTED] 1961. (Exhibit A, p 11; Testimony.)
2. On October 7, 2021, Thunderbay Community Health, sought approval for both lower partial and upper partial dentures on Petitioner's behalf. (Exhibit A, pp 7, 13; Testimony.)
3. On October 22, 2021, the Department sent Petitioner a Notice of Denial and a Notice of Amended Authorization. The notices indicated the Petitioner's request for upper partial dentures were approved but that the

lower partial denture request was denied due to Petitioner having at least 8 posterior (back) teeth in occlusion (i.e., biting together). (Exhibit A, pp 9-12; Testimony.)

4. On December 20, 2021, the Michigan Office of Administrative Hearings and Rules (MOAHR) received from Petitioner, a request for hearing. (Exhibit A, p 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 statute, the Social Welfare Act, the Administrative Code, and the State Plan under Title XIX of the Social Security Act Medical Assistance Program.

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

SECTION 2 – PRIOR AUTHORIZATION

Prior authorization (PA) is only required for those services identified in the Dental Chapter and the Medicaid Code and Rate Reference tool. (Refer to the Directory Appendix for website information.)

* * *

2.2 COMPLETION INSTRUCTIONS

The Dental Prior Approval Authorization Request form (MSA-1680-B) is used to obtain authorization. (Refer to the Forms Appendix for instructions for completing the form.) When requesting authorization for certain procedures, dentists may be required to send specific additional information and materials. Based on the MSA-1680-B and the documentation attached, staff approves or disapproves the request and returns a copy to the dentist. Approved requests are assigned a PA number. For billing purposes, the PA number must be entered in the appropriate field on the claim form. An electronic copy of the MSA-1680-B is available on the MDCH website. (Refer to the Directory Appendix for website information.)¹

¹ MPM, Dental Chapter, July 1, 2020, p 4.

The general instructions for Medicaid coverage for complete and partial dentures during the period when the PA request and denial were made are set forth in the following policy from the Medicaid Provider Manual:

6.6.A. GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

Complete and partial dentures are benefits for all beneficiaries. All dentures require prior authorization (PA). Providers must assess the beneficiary's general oral health and provide a five-year prognosis for the prosthesis requested. An upper partial denture PA request must also include the prognosis of six sound teeth.

Complete or partial dentures are 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).

If an existing complete or partial denture can be made serviceable, the dentist should provide the needed restorations to maintain use of the existing removable prosthesis. This includes extracting teeth, adding teeth to the existing prosthesis, and removing hyperplastic tissue as necessary to restore the functionality of the complete or partial denture.

Before the final impressions are taken for the fabrication of a complete or partial denture, adequate healing necessary to support the prosthesis must take place following the completion of extractions and/or surgical procedures. This includes the posterior ridges of any immediate denture. When an immediate denture is authorized involving the six anterior teeth (cuspid to cuspid), this requirement is waived.

Reimbursement for a complete or partial denture includes all necessary adjustments, relines, repairs, and duplications within six months of insertion. This also includes such services necessary for an immediate upper denture when authorized. If any necessary adjustments or repairs are identified within the six-month time period but are not provided until after the six month time period, no additional reimbursement is allowed for these services.

Complete or partial dentures are not authorized when:

- A previous prosthesis has been provided within five years, whether or not the existing denture was obtained through Medicaid.
- An adjustment, reline, repair, or rebasing will make a prosthesis serviceable.
- A complete or partial denture has been lost or broken beyond repair within five years, whether or not the existing denture was obtained through Medicaid.

When denture services have commenced but irreversible circumstances have prevented delivery, the dentist should bill using the Not Otherwise Classified (NOC) procedure code. A copy of the lab bill and an explanation in the Remarks section of the claim must be included. Providers are paid a reduced rate to offset a portion of the costs incurred. It is the expectation that the probability of removable appliances being delivered and followup treatment completed is assessed prior to the initiation of treatment to evaluate whether the treatment is appropriate for the specific patient. Contact the Program Review Division (PRD) regarding the requirements for incomplete dentures. (Refer to the Directory Appendix for contact information.)²

* * *

The Department witness testified that Petitioner's request for lower partial dentures was denied because Petitioner would have 8 or more posterior teeth in occlusion (i.e., biting together) with the placement of the approved upper partial denture. Therefore, in accordance with the applicable policy, Petitioner did qualify for upper partial dentures at the time.

Petitioner argued he only had front teeth remaining to chew his food and that with only partial placements he would only have use of half his mouth when chewing. As explained during the hearing, the issue being appealed was the Department's decision to deny the placement of lower partial dentures and the fact that denial was based on policy pertaining to having 8 or more posterior teeth in occlusion. Although Petitioner argues the teeth remaining are insufficient, Petitioner provided no evidence that directly disputes the evidence and policy relied upon by the Department.

On review, the Department's decision to deny the request for lower partial dentures was reached within policy. The Department must enforce Medicaid policy as written. Based on the information submitted with the prior authorization request, Petitioner would have

² MPM, Dental Chapter, July 1, 2020, pp 20-21.

at least 8 posterior teeth in occlusion with the upper partial denture approval and placement. As such, Petitioner is not entitled to a lower partial denture.

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 lower partial dentures.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that:

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

CA/dh

J. Arendt
Corey Arendt
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

Gretchen Backer
400 S. Pine, 6th Floor
PO Box 30479
Lansing, MI 48909

DHHS Department Rep.

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

Agency Representative

John Lambert
MDHHS Appeals Section
PO Box 30807
Lansing, MI 48909

Petitioner

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