

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED], MI
[REDACTED]

Date Mailed: June 27, 2022
MOAHR Docket No.: 22-001967
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 a Request for Hearing filed by Petitioner.

After due notice, a telephone hearing was held on May 26, 2022. Petitioner appeared and testified on her own behalf. Leigha Burghdoff, Appeals Review Officer, represented the Respondent, Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS or Department). Eric Neilson, a Manager in the Department's Program Review Division, testified as a witness for the Department.

During the telephone hearing, the Department submitted one evidence packet/exhibit that was admitted into the record as Exhibit A, pages 1-19. Petitioner did not submit any proposed exhibits.

ISSUE

Did the Department properly deny Petitioner's prior authorization request for complete 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. In January 2020, Petitioner received a partial lower denture paid for by the Department. (Exhibit A, page 16).
2. On March 28, 2022, the Department received a prior authorization request for teeth extractions, complete upper dentures, and complete lower dentures submitted on Petitioner's behalf by her dentist. (Exhibit A, pages 13-15).
3. On April 13, 2022, the Department sent Petitioner written notice that the prior authorization request had been denied. (Exhibit A, pages 8-9).

4. With respect to the reason for the denial, the notice stated:

The policy this denial is based on is Section 6.6.A of the dental chapter of the Medicaid Provider Manual. Specifically:

- Policy: Dental Chapter, Section 6.6.A. General Instructions. Complete or partial dentures are not authorized when Medicaid or Medicaid Managed Care has provided a denture in the same arch within five years. A lower partial denture was placed on 1/3/2020 per the MDHHS Database.

Exhibit A, page 9

5. On May 3, 2022, the Michigan Office of Administrative Hearings and Rules (MOAHR) received the Request for Hearing filed in this matter regarding that denial. (Exhibit A, pages 4-5).
6. On May 9, 2022, the Department also sent Petitioner notice that the request for a complete upper denture had been approved. (Exhibit A, pages 10-11).

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.

Medicaid covered benefits are addressed for the practitioners and beneficiaries in the Medicaid Provider Manual (MPM) and, in part, the applicable version of the MPM states:

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.
- 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.

*MPM, January 1, 2022 version
Dental Chapter, pages 22-23
(Emphasis added)*

Here, the Department's witness testified that while Petitioner's entire prior authorization request was denied initially, the Department also subsequently approved the request for complete upper dentures while the requested extractions do not require prior approval.

He also testified that requested complete lower dentures remained denied pursuant to the above policies and on the basis that, as established by the Department's records, the Department/Medicaid had provided partial dentures in that same arch within the past five years.

In response, Petitioner testified that the problem is bone loss in her jaw and, while she received a partial lower denture in 2020, she has since had more teeth removed and she can no longer use that lower denture.

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

Given the record and applicable policies in this case, Petitioner has failed to meet her burden of proof and the Department's decision must therefore be affirmed. The above policy expressly provides that complete or partial dentures are not authorized when a previous denture has been provided in the same arch within five years, and it is undisputed in this case that Petitioner had dentures for her lower arch that were paid for by the Department within the five years preceding her current request.

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 prior authorization request.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that:

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

SK/tem


Steven Kibit
Administrative Law Judge

NOTICE OF APPEAL: Petitioner 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

Via Electronic Mail:

DHHS Dept Contact

Gretchen Backer
400 S. Pine, 6th Floor
P.O. Box 30479
Lansing, MI 48909
MDHHS-PRD-Hearings@michigan.gov

DHHS Department Rep.

M. Carrier
MDHHS
Appeals Section
P.O. Box 30807
Lansing, MI 48909
MDHHS-Appeals@michigan.gov

Agency Representative

Leigha Burghoff
MDHHS
Appeals Section
P.O. Box 30807
Lansing, MI 48909
MDHHS-Appeals@michigan.gov

Via First Class Mail:

Petitioner

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
, MI [REDACTED]