



GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS
MICHIGAN OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS AND RULES
SUZANNE SONNEBORN
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

MARLON I. BROWN, DPA
ACTING DIRECTOR

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] MI [REDACTED]

Date Mailed: February 14, 2024
MOAHR Docket No.: 24-000178
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; 42 CFR 431.200 to 431.250; and 42 CFR 438.400 to 438.424, upon the Petitioner's request for a hearing.

After due notice, a hearing was held on February 13, 2024. [REDACTED] Petitioner, appeared on his own behalf. Lana Karadsheh, Appeals Review Officer, appeared on behalf of Respondent, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (Department). Jeffery Love, Adult Services Worker, appeared as a witness for the Department.

Exhibits:

Petitioner	None
Department	A – Hearing Summary

ISSUE

Did the Department properly terminate Petitioner's Home Help Services (HHS) case?

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 or around January 13, 2015, Petitioner began receiving HHS benefits. (Exhibit A, p 10.)

2. On December 7, 2023, prior to Petitioner's assessment, Petitioner clothed himself for his pending assessment scheduled later that day. (Testimony.)
3. On December 7, 2023, the Department completed an in-home assessment with Petitioner. During the assessment, Petitioner was observed ambulating and transferring without the use of adaptive equipment or the need for hands on assistance. Additionally, Petitioner was observed lifting his foot onto the counter to wash his boots and dust his television. Petitioner reported he receives help with cooking, laundry, picking up prescriptions, cleaning and washing a particular spot on his back. (Exhibit A, pp 19-20; Testimony.)
4. On December 7, 2023, the Department met with Petitioner's caregiver. During the conversation, Petitioner's caregiver reported she assists the Petitioner with housekeeping, laundry, grocery shopping, reminders to take medication, picking up prescriptions and back washes. (Exhibit A, p 19; Testimony.)
5. On December 13, 2023, the Department sent Petitioner an Advance Negative Action Notice. The notice indicated Petitioner's HHS case would be terminated effective December 27, 2023. (Exhibit A, p 23; Testimony.)
6. On January 4, 2024, the Michigan Office of Administrative Hearings and Rules received from Petitioner, a request for hearing. (Exhibit A, p 8.)
7. Petitioner's prior 54-A Medical Needs Forms indicated Petitioner had a medical need for assistance with the activities of dressing, meal preparation, shopping, laundry, and housework. (Exhibit A, pp 27-28.)

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 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.¹

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.

¹ ASM 101, April 1, 2018, pp 1-2, 5.

Either the DHS-54A or veterans administration medical form 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) at a level of 3 or greater to be eligible to receive Home Help services.²

ASM 115 ADULT SERVICES REQUIREMENTS

MDHHS-5534, ADULT SERVICES COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENT

Conduct a face-to-face interview with the client in their home to assess the personal care needs. Complete the MDHHS-5534, Adult Services Comprehensive Assessment, which is generated from MiAIMS; see ASM 120, Adult Services Comprehensive Assessment.

CONTACTS

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.³

² ASM 105 June 1, 2020, pp 1, 3.

³ ASM 115, Adult Services Requirements, May 1, 2023, pp 4-5.

ASM 120 ADULT SERVICES COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENT

OVERVIEW

The MDHHS-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 in the computer program.

Functional Tab

The Functional tab under the 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 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.⁴

The ASW testified that during the assessment, Petitioner was observed ambulating and transferring without the need for assistance, and, further, reported seeing Petitioner raise his foot up onto the counter to clean his boots and later dust a television. It was noted by the ASW that Petitioner's single ADL need for assistance with washing a particular spot on his back was unfounded based on the level of activity observed during the assessment. It is worth noting none of the Petitioner's medical needs forms contained within the record indicated a medical need for assistance with bathing.

⁴ ASM 120, Adult Services Comprehensive Assessment, May 1, 2023, pp 1-3.

Petitioner disagreed with the testimony of the ASW but failed to provide any evidence to support a finding that Petitioner met the requirements for HHS. Petitioner mentioned a recently completed medical needs form, but it was not provided to the Michigan Office of Administrative Hearings for consideration.

Based on the evidence presented, Petitioner has failed to prove by a preponderance of the evidence that the Department erred in denying the request for HHS benefits. The evidence was not sufficient to establish 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 at the time of the assessment. The ASW provided credible, detailed testimony regarding the discussion of ADLs with Petitioner. Accordingly, the denial of Petitioner's HHS request was proper and must be upheld.

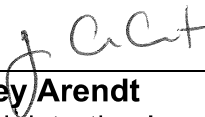
DECISION AND ORDER

The Administrative Law Judge, based on the above findings of fact and conclusions of law, finds that the Department properly denied Petitioner's request for HHS benefits based on the information made available at the time of the decision.

IT IS, THEREFORE, ORDERED that:

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

CA/pe



Corey Arendt
Administrative Law Judge
for Elizabeth Hertel, 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

Via Electronic Mail:

Petitioner

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

Agency Representative

Lana Karadsheh
MDHHS
235 S Grand Ave.
Lansing, MI 48933
Karadshehl@michigan.gov

DHHS

Kimberly Kornoelje
Kent County DHHS
121 Martin Luther King Jr. St., SE, Ste. 200
Grand Rapids, MI 49507
MDHHS-Kent-Hearings@michigan.gov

DHHS Department Contact

Michelle Martin
MDHHS
400 S. Pine St., 6th Floor
Lansing, MI 48933
MDHHS-Home-Help-Policy@michigan.gov

DHHS Department Representative

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