



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  
DIRECTOR

[REDACTED]  
MI [REDACTED]

Date Mailed: July 26, 2024  
MOAHR Docket No.: 24-006096  
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 July 23, 2024. [REDACTED] Petitioner, appeared on her own behalf. Lana Karadsheh, Appeals Review Officer, appeared on behalf of Respondent, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (Department). Christine Harper, 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. Petitioner is a Medicaid beneficiary that suffers from joint pain, anxiety, diabetes, and osteoarthritis. (Exhibit A; Testimony.)
2. In approximately March of 2015, Petitioner began receiving HHS. (Exhibit A; Testimony.)

3. On April 11, 2024, a face-to-face assessment took place. During the assessment, Petitioner was observed ambulating and transferring without the use of adaptive equipment or the need for hands on assistance. Petitioner reported she received assistance with housework, meal preparation, mobility, laundry and travel, shopping for foods and medication, and travel for shopping. Petitioner reported no changes in conditions nor any recent falls or hospitalizations. (Exhibit A; Testimony.)
4. On or around May 8, 2024, the Department received from Petitioner's medical provider, a completed 54A Medical Needs Form. The form indicated Petitioner suffered from chronic back pain, general anxiety, radiculopathy, and IBS. The form further indicated Petitioner only needed assistance in the areas of meal preparation, shopping, laundry, and housework. (Exhibit A; Testimony.)
5. On May 8, 2024, the Department sent Petitioner an Advance Negative Action Notice. The notice indicated Petitioner's HHS was being terminated as a result of Petitioner not having a need for hands on assistance with a single Activity of Daily Living. (Exhibit A; Testimony.)
6. On June 5, 2024, the Michigan Office of Administrative Hearings and Rules received from Petitioner, a request for hearing. (Exhibit A.)

### **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**

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#### **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.

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### **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.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> ASM 101, April 1, 2018, pp 1-2, 5.

## ASM 105 ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

### GENERAL

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#### 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).

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#### 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.

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.<sup>2</sup>

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## **ASM 115 ADULT SERVICES REQUIREMENTS**

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### **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.

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## **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.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> ASM 105 June 1, 2020, pp 1, 3.

<sup>3</sup> 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.

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### **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.<sup>4</sup>

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The ASW testified that during the assessment that Petitioner reported there was no need for hands on assistance with a single activity of daily living besides mobility. Petitioner, however, was observed ambulating and transferring without the use of an assistive device or hands on assistance. Following the assessment, the Department received a completed 54A. The 54A reflected the Petitioner did not need assistance with a single activity of daily living. Following the receipt of the 54A and based on the assessment, the Department determined the Petitioner did not meet the requirements

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<sup>4</sup> ASM 120, Adult Services Comprehensive Assessment, May 1, 2023, pp 1-3.

for HHS as it was determined Petitioner did not have a need for hands on assistance with a single ADL.

Petitioner argued she had been receiving HHS since at least 2015 and further that she had a need for these services. Petitioner went on to indicate that it shouldn't matter if she was observed ambulating and transferring and that the doctor completing the 54A was not her normal doctor.

Past receipt of benefits does not dictate one's future receipt of benefits. That is, beneficiaries must continue to meet eligibility requirements in order to continue receiving those benefits. Furthermore, the observance of an individual ambulating or transferring should be part of a determination as to whether or not one needs or requires hands on assistance with an activity of daily living. In this case, observing someone performing a task with or without assistance cannot be ignored. Lastly, Petitioner attempts to draw attention away from the completed 54A that indicates Petitioner does not have a need for assistance with a single ADL. The completed form, however, was filled out and completed by a doctor who assessed the Petitioner. There is nothing in policy that requires a specific time frame that a beneficiary must be seen, and consequently, the form should be considered.

Based on the evidence presented, Petitioner has failed to prove by a preponderance of the evidence that the Department erred in terminating Petitioner's HHS benefits. The evidence was not sufficient to establish that 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 her discussion of ADLs with Petitioner. Accordingly, the termination of Petitioner's HHS benefits 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 terminated Petitioner's 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**.

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**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:**

**Agency Representative**

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

**DHHS Department Contact**

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

**DHHS Location Contact**

Heather McBride  
Genesee County DHHS  
125 E. Union St., 7<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Flint, MI 48502  
**McBrideH@michigan.gov**

**DHHS Department Representative**

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

**Via First Class Mail:**

**Petitioner**

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] MI [REDACTED]