



**Date Mailed:** October 23, 2025  
**Docket No.:** 25-029231  
**Case No.:** [REDACTED]  
**Petitioner:** [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
MI [REDACTED]

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এটি একটি গুরুত্বপূর্ণ আইনি ডকুমেন্ট। দয়া করে কেউ দস্তাবেজ অনুবাদ করুন।

Este es un documento legal importante. Por favor, que alguien traduzca el documento.

这是一份重要的法律文件。请让别人翻译文件。

Ky është një dokument ligjor i rëndësishëm. Ju lutem, kini dikë ta përktheni dokumentin.

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### **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 Petitioner's request for a hearing.

After due notice, a hearing was held on October 22, 2025. [REDACTED] Petitioner, appeared on her own behalf. Leigha Klaver, Appeals Review Officer, represented the Department. Jessica Reich, Departmental Analyst, Program Review Division, appeared as a witness for the Department.

### **ISSUE**

Did the Department properly deny Petitioner's provider's prior authorization request for bilateral orthopedic shoes and inserts?

### **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 diagnosed with Hallux Valgus (bunions). (Exhibit A, pp 9, 18; Testimony)
2. On July 24, 2025, the Department received a prior authorization request from the medical supply company for bilateral orthopedic shoes and inserts for Petitioner. (Exhibit A, pp 18-22; Testimony)
3. On August 8, 2025, the Department sent Petitioner and her provider a Notification of Denial, indicating that the prior authorization request was denied because the orthotics were not covered for Petitioner's diagnosis. (Exhibit A, pp 16-17; Testimony)
4. On August 19, 2025, the Michigan Office of Administrative Hearings and Rules received Petitioner's hearing request. (Exhibit A, pp 7-15)

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## 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.

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) Medicaid Provider Manual states that orthopedic footwear is not covered for the condition of Hallux Valgus. (Exhibit A, p 27.)

The Department witness testified that the prior authorization submitted on Petitioner's behalf indicates that her diagnosis is Hallux Valgus, commonly known as bunions, and Medicaid does not cover orthopedic footwear for that diagnosis.

Petitioner testified that she was diagnosed with diabetes in the past month. Petitioner indicated that her feet are getting so bad she is getting blood blisters. Petitioner testified that she is worried she will lose her feet if she does not get the right footwear. Petitioner indicated that she has a hard time walking and that it feels like the bones are coming out of her feet.

In response, the Department's witness indicated that Petitioner also has Medicare coverage and Medicare covers diabetic shoes, which are a different code than the orthopedic footwear requested here. The Department's witness indicated that Petitioner should contact her provider.

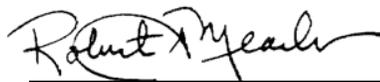
The Medicaid Provider Manual specifies that orthopedic footwear is not covered for the condition of Hallux Valgus, which is the diagnosis indicated on Petitioner's prior authorization request. Therefore, based on the submitted documentation, the Department's determination to deny coverage for the bilateral orthopedic shoes and inserts must be upheld. Petitioner should speak to her doctor and discuss obtaining diabetic shoes through Medicare.

## DECISION AND ORDER

The Administrative Law Judge, based on the above findings of fact and conclusions of law, decides that the Department properly denied the Petitioner's provider's request for bilateral orthopedic shoes and inserts based on the available information.

**IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED** that:

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



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**ROBERT J. MEADE**  
**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE**

25-029231

**APPEAL RIGHTS:** Petitioner may appeal this Hearing Decision to the circuit court. Rules for appeals to the circuit court can be found in the Michigan Court Rules (MCR), including MCR 7.101 to MCR 7.123, available at the Michigan Courts website at [courts.michigan.gov](http://courts.michigan.gov). The Michigan Office of Administrative Hearings and Rules (MOAHR) cannot provide legal advice, but assistance may be available through the State Bar of Michigan at <https://rs.michbar.org> or Michigan Legal Help at <https://michiganlegalhelp.org>. A copy of the circuit court appeal should be sent to MOAHR. A circuit court appeal may result in a reversal of the Hearing Decision.

Either party who disagrees with this Hearing Decision may also send a written request for a rehearing and/or reconsideration to MOAHR within 30 days of the mailing date of this Hearing Decision. The request should include Petitioner's name, the docket number from page 1 of this Hearing Decision, an explanation of the specific reasons for the request, and any documents supporting the request. The request should be sent to MOAHR

- by email to [LARA-MOAHR-DCH@michigan.gov](mailto:LARA-MOAHR-DCH@michigan.gov), **OR**
- by fax at (517) 763-0155, **OR**
- by mail addressed to  
Michigan Office of Administrative Hearings and Rules  
Rehearing/Reconsideration Request  
P.O. Box 30639  
Lansing Michigan 48909-8139

Documents sent via email are not secure and can be faxed or mailed to avoid any potential risks. Requests MOAHR receives more than 30 days from the mailing date of this Hearing Decision may be considered untimely and dismissed.

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