

Beneficiary Eligibility Bulletin

Distribution: Health Care Eligibility Policy 04-05
(Family Independence Agency)

Issued: June 1, 2004

Subject: Home Help Policy

Effective Date: July 1, 2004

Programs Affected: Medicaid

Effective July 1, 2004, the Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) will implement revisions to the Medicaid Home Help Program.

AUTHORITY

The Family Independence Agency (FIA) is the administrative agent for the MDCH Home Help Program. The policies and procedures related to the program are contained in the FIA Adult Services Manual which is available on-line at www.mfia.state.mi.us/olmweb/ex/asm/asm.pdf.

The policies being implemented by this bulletin affect the Home Help Services provisions of the FIA Adult Services Manual Bulletin 2003-002 effective August 1, 2003, and Bulletin 2004-002 effective March 1, 2004. These Home Help Program related policies are obsoleted by this bulletin and will be rescinded by the FIA.

MDCH bulletins Health Care Eligibility Policy 04-01 issued January 15, 2004, and Health Care Eligibility Policy 04-03 issued March 24, 2004 are rescinded.

POLICY CHANGES

Coverage Limitations for Instrumental Activities of Daily Living (IADL's)

The following IADL's are limited to a maximum number of hours per month:

- 5 hours for shopping,
- 6 hours for light housekeeping,
- 7 hours for laundry,
- 25 hours for meal preparation.

The IADL "shopping and errands" has been renamed as "shopping." "Shopping" is limited to occasional trips within the local area for the purpose of obtaining food, medical necessities, and household items required specifically for the health and maintenance of the beneficiary.

Home Help Agencies

A Home Help Service Provider is considered an agency when one of the following criteria are met:

- Is a Medicaid enrolled Home Health agency; OR
- Has, or have applied for, a tax identification number AND employs or (sub)contracts with two (2) or more persons to provide home help services.

RATE FREEZE

Provider rates continue to be frozen at the June 1, 2003 levels for individual and agency providers. The home help provider rate freeze will be in effect until further notice. Local FIA Offices must adhere to their currently established rates.

Any exception to authorize a rate greater than the locally established provider rate must be submitted to Medical Services Administration, Long Term Care Systems Development Section, P.O. Box 30479, Lansing, Michigan 48909-7979.

All rate exception requests must include the following supporting documentation:

- Description of the beneficiary's assessed complex care needs.
- Description of specialized training the provider has received from a clinical practitioner in order to meet the beneficiary's assessed complex care needs.
- The name and the telephone number(s) of providers(s) contacted to provide care.
- Current ASCAP assessment.
- Current Reasonable Time and Task Schedule.
- Description of the strategy being used to find alternate lower cost provider(s).

Note: Any exceptions authorized by MDCH will be short term in nature. Continued review and follow-up by the Adult Services Workers will need to occur.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Home Help Services are only available to beneficiaries who are identified as medically and/or physically disabled, or cognitively impaired, by a Medicaid enrolled physician, occupational therapist, physical therapist, or nurse practitioner.

To determine continued eligibility for the Home Help program, a Medical Needs form (FIA 54A) must be completed annually by any of the provider types listed in the paragraph above. The updated FIA 54A must be submitted to the FIA as part of the next redetermination process. Copies of the FIA 54A can be obtained from the Adult Services Worker at the local FIA office.

MANUAL MAINTENANCE

Retain this bulletin for future reference. Discard bulletins Health Care Eligibility Policy 04-01 and Health Care Eligibility Policy 04-03.

Questions

Any questions regarding this bulletin should be directed to Provider Inquiry, Department of Community Health, P.O. Box 30731, Lansing, Michigan 48909-8231 or e-mail ProviderSupport@michigan.gov. When you submit an e-mail, be sure to include your name, affiliation, and phone number so you may be contacted if necessary. Providers may phone toll free 1-800-292-2550.

Approval

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul Reinhart". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Paul Reinhart, Director
Medical Services Administration