



**STATE OF WISCONSIN
Division of Hearings and Appeals**

In the Matter of

[REDACTED]

DECISION

MPA/145963

PRELIMINARY RECITALS

Pursuant to a petition filed December 15, 2012, under Wis. Stat. § 49.45(5), and Wis. Admin. Code § HA 3.03(1), to review a decision by the Division of Health Care Access and Accountability ["DCHAA"] in regard to Medical Assistance, a Hearing was held via telephone on January 11, 2013.

The issue for determination is whether the Division of Hearings and Appeals ["DHA"] has jurisdiction in this matter.

There appeared at that time via telephone the following persons:

PARTIES IN INTEREST:

Petitioner:

[REDACTED]

Respondent:

Department of Health Services
1 West Wilson Street
Madison, Wisconsin 53703

By: Richard M. Carr, MD, MS, DCHAA Medical Consultant (Dr. Carr did not appear at the January 11, 2013 Hearing but submitted a letter dated December 19, 2012 with attachments.)

Division of Health Care Access and Accountability
1 West Wilson Street, Room 272
P.O. Box 309
Madison, WI 53707-0309

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE:

Sean P. Maloney
Division of Hearings and Appeals

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Petitioner is a resident of Dane County.

2. Petitioner's provider, University of Wisconsin Medical Foundation of Middleton, Wisconsin, requested Prior Authorization ["PA"] (P.A. # [REDACTED]; dated October 11, 2012) for Medical Assistance ["MA"] coverage of bilateral breast reduction surgery at a total cost of \$15,218.00.
3. DCHAA denied the requested bilateral breast reduction surgery (P.A. # [REDACTED]). DCHAA sent a letter to petitioner dated October 16, 2012 and entitled *BadgerCare Plus Notice of Appeal Rights* notifying petitioner of the denial; petitioner received that October 16th letter; that October 16th letter explained petitioner's appeal rights and clearly set -out the appeal deadline and the address of DHA to which an appeal must be mailed.
4. Petitioner's requested a Hearing by an undated *Request For Fair Hearing* form received by DHA on December 17, 2012 via U.S. Mail postmarked December 15, 2012.

DISCUSSION

DHA has authority to hold a Hearing and make a decision only if the law provides for such authority. In legal language this authority is known as *jurisdiction*.

In order for DHA to have jurisdiction, an appeal of an action concerning MA, such as a denial of PA, must be made within 45 days of the effective date. Wis. Stat. § 49.45(5)(a) (2009-10); Wis. Admin. Code § DHS 104.01(5)(a)3. (December 2008); Wis. Admin. Code § HA 3.05(3) (September 2001); see also, 42 C.F.R. § 431.221(d) (2011). A Hearing request that is not filed within the 45-day time period must be dismissed for lack of jurisdiction. Wis. Admin. Code § HA 3.05(4)(e) (September 2001).

A Hearing request is considered filed on the date of actual receipt by DHA or the date of the postmark, whichever is earlier. Wis. Admin. Code § HA 3.05(3)(c) (September 2001). In this case the Hearing request was postmarked December 15, 2012. Thus, it is considered filed on December 15, 2012.

In this matter the effective date of the action was October 16, 2012 -- the date of the letter denying petitioner's request for PA. Forty -five days from October 16, 2012 is November 30, 2012. Petitioner's request for a Hearing was not filed until D ecember 15, 2012. Thus, petitioner's request for a Hearing was not made within the 45-day time period and DHA does not have jurisdiction.

Petition testified that she did not request a Hearing sooner because she did not understand the October 16th letter. However, the October 16th letter explained petitioner's appeal rights and clearly set -out the appeal deadline and the address of DHA to which an appeal must be mailed.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

For the reasons stated above, DHA does not have jurisdiction in this matter.

NOW, THEREFORE, it is

ORDERED

That the petition for review herein be and the same is hereby DISMISSED.

REQUEST FOR A REHEARING

This is a final administrative decision. If you think this decision is based on a serious mistake in the facts or the law, you may request a rehearing. You may also ask for a rehearing if you have found new evidence which would change the decision. Your request must explain what mistake the Administrative Law Judge made and why it is important or you must describe your new evidence and tell why you did not have it at your first hearing. If you do not explain these things, your request will have to be denied.

To ask for a rehearing, send a written request to the Division of Hearings and Appeals, P.O. Box 7875, Madison, WI 53707-7875. Send a copy of your request to the other people named in this decision as "PARTIES IN INTEREST." Your request for a rehearing must be received no later than 20 days after the date of the decision. Late requests cannot be granted.

The process for asking for a rehearing is in Wis. Stat. § 227.49. A copy of the statutes can be found at your local library or courthouse.

APPEAL TO COURT

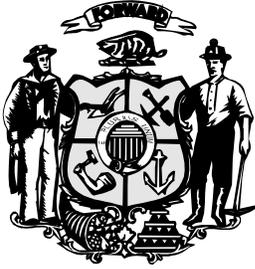
You may also appeal this decision to Circuit Court in the county where you live. Appeals must be served and filed with the appropriate court no more than 30 days after the date of this hearing decision (or 30 days after a denial of rehearing, if you ask for one).

For purposes of appeal to circuit court, the Respondent in this matter is the Department of Health Services. After filing the appeal with the appropriate court, it must be served on the Secretary of that Department, either personally or by certified mail. The address of the Department is: 1 West Wilson Street, Madison, Wisconsin 53703. A copy should also be sent to the Division of Hearings and Appeals, 5005 University Avenue, Suite 201, Madison, WI 53705-5400.

The appeal must also be served on the other "PARTIES IN INTEREST" named in this decision. The process for appeals to the Circuit Court is in Wis. Stat. §§ 227.52 and 227.53.

Given under my hand at the City of Madison,
Wisconsin, this 17th day of January, 2013

\sSean P. Maloney
Administrative Law Judge
Division of Hearings and Appeals



State of Wisconsin \DIVISION OF HEARINGS AND APPEALS

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The preceding decision was sent to the following parties on January 17, 2013.

Division of Health Care Access And Accountability