

**Office of Medicaid
BOARD OF HEARINGS**

Appellant Name and Address:



Appeal Decision:	Denied	Appeal Number:	2306915
Decision Date:	10/11/2023	Hearing Date:	August 29, 2023
Hearing Officer:	Brook Padgett		

Appellant Representative:

Pro se

MassHealth Representative:

Katina Dean



*Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Health and Human Services
MassHealth of Medical Assistance
Board of Hearings
100 Hancock Street, 6th floor
Quincy, MA 02171*

APPEAL DECISION

Appeal Decision:	Denied	Issue:	Transportation 130 CMR 407.411
Decision Date:	10/11/2023	Hearing Date:	August 29, 2023
MassHealth Rep.:	K. Dean	Appellant Rep.:	Pro se
Hearing Location:	Springfield MEC		

Jurisdiction

The Appellant received a notice dated July 28, 2023 stating his request for reimbursement for personal transportation had been denied. (Exhibit 1).

The Appellant filed this appeal timely on August 14, 2023. (130 CMR 610.015(B); Exhibit 2).

Denial of a request for transportation services is valid grounds for appeal. (130 CMR 610.032).

Action Taken by MassHealth

MassHealth denied the Appellant's request for transportation to the American Red Cross.

Issue

Is the Appellant eligible for the requested transportation services?

Summary of Evidence

MassHealth testified that the Appellant submitted two PT-1 forms on July 27, 2023 requesting transportations to American Red Cross so he could donate blood. The request was denied on July 28, 2023, as MassHealth will only pay for transportation services when members are traveling to obtain medical services covered by MassHealth. MassHealth stated the American Red Cross is not a MassHealth provider, and blood donation is not a covered medical service, therefore the request for transportation was denied.

The Appellant testified that, in 2016, he had a [REDACTED] which caused liver damage and he became [REDACTED] and lost [REDACTED] pounds. He stated at the time he required multiple blood transfusions every day for six months in order to recover. The Appellant maintains that he needs to donate blood for his health so that his body will continue to replenish his blood cells. The Appellant further argued that the transportation is required to attend a necessary medical appointment for his own health as well as the health of individual's requiring blood plasma and platelets.

MassHealth restated that the American Red Cross is not a MassHealth provider and transportation cannot be authorized to a non-MassHealth provider location. The representative explained that, even if an activity is necessary (such as picking up your prescribed medication), if the location (to the local pharmacy) is not a MassHealth provider, the transportation cannot be approved.

The Appellant expressed his displeasure at MassHealth and the entire healthcare system and terminated his phone call.

Findings of Fact

Based on a preponderance of the evidence, I find the following:

1. On July 27, 2023, the Appellant requested transportation to the American Red Cross so that he could donate blood. (Exhibit 4 and testimony).
2. MassHealth will pay for transportation services only when members are traveling to obtain medical services covered by MassHealth. (130 CMR 407.411).
3. The American Red Cross is not MassHealth provider. (Testimony).
4. Donation of blood is not a MassHealth covered service. (Testimony).

Analysis and Conclusions of Law

To be eligible for reimbursement for personal transportation expenses the transportation must be for a medical service covered by MassHealth, cost more than \$5.00 and the request must be submitted no later than 90 days after the transportation occurred.

130 CMR 407.411: Transportation Utilization Restrictions: Covered Services

(A) Covered Services. The MassHealth agency pays for transportation services that meet the requirements of 130 CMR 407.000 **only when such services are covered under the member's MassHealth coverage type and only when members are traveling to obtain medical services covered under the member's coverage type . . .** (Emphasis added).

The American Red Cross is not an authorized MassHealth provider. Blood donation is not a covered medical service under MassHealth. The Appellant is not eligible for reimbursement for transportation to American Red Cross to donate blood as the request is not to a MassHealth provider or to obtain medical services covered by MassHealth.

This appeal is DENIED.

Order for MassHealth

None.

Notification of Your Right to Appeal to Court

If you disagree with this decision, you have the right to appeal to Court in accordance with Chapter 30A of the Massachusetts General Laws. To appeal, you must file a complaint with the Superior Court for the county where you reside, or Suffolk County Superior Court, within 30 days of your receipt of this decision.

Brook Padgett
Hearing Officer
Board of Hearings

cc: MassHealth representative: Katrina Dean MAXIMUS