

**Office of Medicaid
BOARD OF HEARINGS**

Appellant Name and Address:



Appeal Decision:	Denied	Appeal Number:	2514437
Decision Date:	12/2/2025	Hearing Date:	November 04, 2025
Hearing Officer:	Brook Padgett		

Appellant Representative:

MassHealth Representative:

Pro se

Dr. Alan Titelbaum



*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:	Prior Authorization 130 CMR 402.427
Decision Date:	12/2/2025	Hearing Date:	November 04, 2025
MassHealth Rep.:	Dr. Titelbaum	Appellant Rep.:	Pro se
Hearing Location:	Quincy, Telephonic	Aid Pending:	No

Authority

This hearing was conducted pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 118E, Chapter 30A, and the rules and regulations promulgated thereunder.

Jurisdiction

The appellant received a notice dated September 22, 2025, denying her request for prior authorization (PA) for eyeglasses. (Exhibit 1).

The appellant filed this appeal timely on October 03, 2025. (130 CMR 610.015(B); Exhibit 2).

Denial of assistance is valid grounds for appeal. (130 CMR 610.032).

Action Taken by MassHealth

MassHealth denied the appellant's PA request for eyeglasses.

Issue

Is the appellant eligible for MassHealth payment for eyeglasses?

Summary of Evidence

The MassHealth consultant testified and submitted into evidence a PA request for a pair of eyeglasses from [REDACTED]. The consultant stated that the request includes the appellant's prescription dated [REDACTED] from [REDACTED] indicating a +0.25D power in both the left and right lenses. The consultant states that by regulation, a request must be at least +0.75D to qualify for approval of glasses by MassHealth. Because the prescription is only +0.25D in each eye, the request had to be denied under 130 CMR 402.427(A).

The appellant responded that she understands the MassHealth regulations; however, she has tried to wear glasses that are +0.75D and they make her dizzy and nauseous. The appellant states she needs these glasses as she is constantly stopping people to ask them to read things for her because they are blurry. The appellant stated she has had glasses for years, but they are worn out and falling apart and she can no longer wear them. The appellant argued that the glasses are a medical necessity because without them she cannot function.

The MassHealth consultant reiterated there is no regulation to authorize glasses if the prescription is below +0.75D.

Findings of Fact

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

1. The appellant, through her medical equipment provider, requested prior approval for eyeglasses with a +0.25D power in both the left and right lenses. (Exhibit 1).
2. MassHealth denied the request on September 22, 2025. (Exhibit 1).
3. MassHealth does not pay for eyeglasses when the corrective power is less than +0.75D sphere. (Exhibit 1).

Analysis and Conclusions of Law

Although the appellant credibly testified that she requires eyeglasses and that she is unable to wear glasses with power that is more than +0.25D, the MassHealth regulations are clear that MassHealth will only pay for glasses if the corrective power is at least +0.75D.

130 CMR 402.427: Service Limitations: Dispensing Eyeglasses

- (A) The MassHealth agency pays for only one initial pair of eyeglasses and only if there is a corrective power of at least +.75D sphere or +.50D cylinder. (See 130 CMR 402.431 for an exception which permits two pairs of eyeglasses instead of bifocals and 130 CMR 402.434 regarding spare eyeglasses.)

The appellant has requested a prescription for lenses with the corrective power at +0.25D in both eyes which is below the regulatory minimum power of at least +0.75D as required by MassHealth. As a result, this appeal must be 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: PA Unit