

Reasons for Decision:

Order # AP1819-0449

<name removed> appealed that they were denied Employment and Income Assistance (EIA) taxi transportation.

The Department stated that <name removed> is approved for taxis for medical appointments and was also approved to attend their pharmacy for methadone treatment. Transportation supports for people receiving methadone treatment can be approved for up to eight months. <name removed>'s use of taxis for methadone treatments has exceeded the allowable amount by many years.

The Department has a new medical transportation unit and tracking system for EIA taxi requests. During review of participant's requests, it was discovered that <name removed> has been continually approved, in error for approximately twenty years. <name removed> was provided a month notice that their daily taxi coverage will end and was advised that they still has taxi coverage for all health related appointments due to their conditions. <name removed> was provided with some recommendations and alternatives such as Handi Transit and a free at home pharmacy service.

<name removed> stated that they take taxis to their doctor's office and not just to pick up their methadone. The appellant does not want to rely on Handi Transit and doesn't trust other services. The appellant advised that they see their doctor regularly to provide urine samples.

Participants who stabilize in the methadone maintenance treatment program can earn carrying privileges where their dosage of methadone is dispensed in advance so they don't have to attend daily. <name removed> has not been compliant with the treatment and continues to be required to pick up their methadone daily.

Section 22.4.9 of the Employment and Income Assistance Administrative Manual states: Methadone Maintenance Treatment

Methadone Maintenance Treatment (MMT) is a harm reduction protocol for individuals dependent on opiates. Participants who stabilize in MMT programs can earn methadone carrying privileges or "carries". A carry is a participant's dosage of methadone dispensed to them in advance so they do not have to attend the clinic or pharmacy for a supervised dose.

Employment and Income Assistance will provide supports for MMT until a participant is granted carrying privileges that reduce the number of visits to the clinic or pharmacy to once per week to a maximum of eight months.

After carefully considering of all the written and verbal information, the Board has determined that the Employment and Income Assistance Program has administered <name removed>'s request for taxi transportation under Section 22.4.9 in accordance with their policies. The Board recognizes how <name removed> would expect the taxi service to continue while receiving it for many years in error. <name removed> was presented with alternative resources, such as the free pharmacy delivery services, which they rejected. Therefore, the Board is confirming the decision of the Director, and this appeal has been dismissed.

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