

State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF MEDICAL ASSISTANCE AND HEALTH SERVICES
P.O. Box 712
Trenton, NJ 08625-0712

ELIZABETH CONNOLLY
Acting Commissioner

KIM GUADAGNO

CHRIS CHRISTIE

Governor

VALERIE HARR Director

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF MEDICAL ASSISTANCE
AND HEALTH SERVICES

J.G.,

ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION

PETITIONER,

FINAL AGENCY DECISION

٧.

OAL DKT. NO. HMA 11634-14

UNITED HEALTHCARE,

RESPONDENT.

As Director of the Division of Medical Assistance and Health Services, I have reviewed the record in this matter, consisting of the Initial Decision, the documents in evidence and the contents of the OAL case file. No exceptions to the Initial Decision were filed. Procedurally, the time period for the Agency Head to render a Final Agency Decision is July 6, 2015 pursuant to an Order of Extension.

Based upon my review of the record, I hereby MODIFY the Initial Decision of the Administrative Law Judge. The ALJ upheld United Healthcare's termination of Petitioner's personal care assistant (PCA) services based upon his finding that Petitioner is independent with the activities of daily living. However,

the assessment performed on June 27, 2014 indicates that Petitioner needs assistance with bathing, dressing and grooming. See Respondent's Exhibits 5 and 6 in evidence. Nevertheless, Petitioner advised that his girlfriend, not the personal care assistant, helps him with these tasks. As a result, United Healthcare concluded that Petitioner does not satisfy the criteria necessary to qualify for PCA services because he is not receiving hands-on assistance with the activities of daily living.

My concern with this conclusion is based on the testimony and submission of E.G., J.G.'s brother and power of attorney, who questioned the reliability of J.G.'s girlfriend to provide continued assistance with J.G.'s personal care needs and also advised that his girlfriend does not reside with him. See Initial Decision at page 2 and Respondent's Exhibit 4.

As a result, I find that a reassessment using the new State approved PCA Tool is warranted.¹ Petitioner's services shall be continued at 7 hours per week pending the reassessment.

THEREFORE, it is on this Latay of June 2015,

ORDERED:

That United Healthcare perform a reassessment.

Valerie J. Harr, Director
Division of Medical Assistance
and Health Services

¹ The State approved this PCA Tool on January 1, 2015. I note that the assessment states that the presence of other people in the house does not alone indicate an available resource, and that informal supports is someone accepted by the member who is present, able and willing to perform task assistance on a continued basis. See Instructions on page 2 and Assessment Tool on page 2.