

health and comfort, such as bathing, dressing, and ambulation. The decision regarding the appropriate number of hours is based on the tasks necessary to meet the specific needs of the individual and the hours necessary to complete those tasks. The regulations provide that PCA services are only warranted when the beneficiaries are “in need of moderate, or greater, hands-on assistance in at least one activity of daily living (ADL), or, minimal assistance or greater in three different ADLs, one of which must require hands-on assistance.” N.J.A.C. 10:60-3.1(c). Additionally, instrumental activities of daily living (IADL) “such as meal preparation, laundry, housekeeping/cleaning, shopping, or other non-hands-on personal care tasks shall not be permitted as a stand-alone PCA service.” N.J.A.C. 10:60-3.1(c)(1). The assessments use the State-approved PCA Nursing Assessment Tool (PCA Tool) to calculate the hours.

On March 24, 2025, Jennifer Moran (Nurse Moran), a Registered Nurse, performed an assessment of Petitioner’s PCA services to determine the hours of care needed. ID at 2. The Petitioner is non-ambulatory, 350-pounds, and has multiple sclerosis. The Petitioner lives in a house with two family members, one of which is her sister who gives her care. Ibid. On May 16, 2025, Horizon notified Petitioner that their request of fifty-six hours of PCA services per week was denied and that they were granted thirty hours per week. Ibid. A Fair Hearing was requested, and a hearing took place on December 2, 2025. Ibid.

At the hearing, the Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) found that during the PCA assessment, the Petitioner reported to Nurse Doran that she could feed herself and that her sister helped her make dinner. Ibid. The Petitioner currently receives pre-made microwaved dinners. Ibid. The ALJ further found that the Petitioner requires assistance due to incontinence, and needs changes in pads and/or diapers every two hours. Ibid. As such, Horizon allowed the maximum of ninety minutes per day to address

incontinence. Ibid.

The Petitioner reported to Nurse Moran that she required only minimal assistance with hygiene, and Horizon allotted her thirty minutes per day, the maximum amount for bathing. Id. at 3. The Petitioner also requested forty-five minutes per day for housekeeping. Ibid. The formula for housekeeping is to take 120 minutes and divide it by the number of household members. Ibid. This resulted in an allotment of forty minutes per day of housekeeping. Ibid. Horizon also allotted sixty minutes per week for shopping, which is the maximum allowed time for this activity. Ibid.

The ALJ concluded that based on Horizon's medical testimony, the Petitioner did not qualify for 56 PCA hours every week. I agree. Horizon correctly determined that the Petitioner was entitled to thirty PCA hours every week.

I agree with the determination because Nurse Moran conducted an assessment and found that the Petitioner could feed herself and that her sister helped her make her dinners. Id. at 4. The Petitioner's meals are pre-made and only need to be microwaved. Ibid. The Petitioner was also awarded the maximum of ninety minutes per day for assistance for incontinence. Ibid. Similarly, the Petitioner was allotted the maximum amount of assistance for bathing and shopping. Id. at 5. Furthermore, housekeeping was correctly determined based on Horizon's formula of 120 minutes divided by the number of household members. Ibid.

Additionally, the Petitioner did not offer any expert or medical testimony. Ibid. They also did not challenge any findings in Nurse Moran's assessment. Ibid. Nor did the Petitioner cite any legal authority to support their request for additional PCA hours. Ibid.

Based upon my review of the record and for the reasons set forth herein, I hereby ADOPT the Initial Decision in this matter and find that an increase in Petitioner's PCA hours was not warranted and that thirty hours per week of PCA services is appropriate at

this time.

THEREFORE, it is on this 19th day of APRIL 2026,

ORDERED:

That the Initial Decision is hereby ADOPTED, as set forth herein and that Horizon's determination is affirmed.

Gregory Woods

Gregory Woods, Assistant Commissioner
Division of Medical Assistance and Health Services