

**§ 431.240 Conducting the hearing.**

(a) All hearings must be conducted—  
 (1) At a reasonable time, date, and place;

(2) Only after adequate written notice of the hearing; and

(3) By one or more impartial officials or other individuals who have not been directly involved in the initial determination of the action in question.

(b) If the hearing involves medical issues such as those concerning a diagnosis, an examining physician's report, or a medical review team's decision, and if the hearing officer considers it necessary to have a medical assessment other than that of the individual involved in making the original decision, such a medical assessment must be obtained at agency expense and made part of the record.

**§ 431.241 Matters to be considered at the hearing.**

The hearing must cover—

(a) Agency action or failure to act with reasonable promptness on a claim for services, including both initial and subsequent decisions regarding eligibility;

(b) Agency decisions regarding changes in the type or amount of services;

(c) A decision by a skilled nursing facility or nursing facility to transfer or discharge a resident; and

(d) A State determination with regard to the preadmission screening and annual resident review requirements of section 1919(e)(7) of the Act.

[57 FR 56505, Nov. 30, 1992]

**§ 431.242 Procedural rights of the applicant or recipient.**

The applicant or recipient, or his representative, must be given an opportunity to—

(a) Examine at a reasonable time before the date of the hearing and during the hearing:

(1) The content of the applicant's or recipient's case file; and

(2) All documents and records to be used by the State or local agency or the skilled nursing facility or nursing facility at the hearing;

(b) Bring witnesses;

(c) Establish all pertinent facts and circumstances;

(d) Present an argument without undue interference; and

(e) Question or refute any testimony or evidence, including opportunity to confront and cross-examine adverse witnesses.

[44 FR 17932, Mar. 29, 1979, as amended at 57 FR 56506, Nov. 30, 1992]

**§ 431.243 Parties in cases involving an eligibility determination.**

If the hearing involves an issue of eligibility and the Medicaid agency is not responsible for eligibility determinations, the agency that is responsible for determining eligibility must participate in the hearing.

**§ 431.244 Hearing decisions.**

(a) Hearing recommendations or decisions must be based exclusively on evidence introduced at the hearing.

(b) The record must consist only of—

(1) The transcript or recording of testimony and exhibits, or an official report containing the substance of what happened at the hearing;

(2) All papers and requests filed in the proceeding; and

(3) The recommendation or decision of the hearing officer.

(c) The applicant or recipient must have access to the record at a convenient place and time.

(d) In any evidentiary hearing, the decision must be a written one that—

(1) Summarizes the facts; and

(2) Identifies the regulations supporting the decision.

(e) In a *de novo* hearing, the decision must—

(1) Specify the reasons for the decision; and

(2) Identify the supporting evidence and regulations.

(f) The agency must take final administrative action as follows:

(1) Ordinarily, within 90 days from the earlier of the following:

(i) The date the enrollee filed an MCO or PIHP appeal, not including the number of days the enrollee took to subsequently file for a State fair hearing; or

(ii) If permitted by the State, the date the enrollee filed for direct access to a State fair hearing.