



AFFORDABLE CARE ACT MASSACHUSETTS IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE

November 12, 2013

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These Updates, published by the Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS) in consultation with the other state agencies involved in ACA implementation, will bring you news related to the implementation of provisions of the ACA here in Massachusetts.

Grants and Demonstrations

The ACA provides funding opportunities to transform how health care is delivered, expand access to care and support healthcare workforce training.

Grant Activity

For information about ACA grants awarded to and grant proposals submitted by the Commonwealth, visit the Grants page of the **Massachusetts National Health Care Reform** website at: [Mass.Gov](#)

Guidance

11/6/13 HHS/CMS published a Correcting Amendment to a Final Rule on Notice of Benefit and Payment Parameters for 2014. The Correcting Amendment to the 3/11/13 Final Rule corrects a number of technical and typographical errors in the Final Rule.

Read the Correcting Amendment at:

<http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2013-11-06/pdf/2013-26579.pdf>

Read the Final Rule at:

<http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2013-03-11/pdf/2013-04902.pdf>

11/5/13 HHS published a notice on a proposed information collection activity related to ACA outreach assistance provided by Title X grantees. The Office of Population Affairs within the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health seeks to collect data from the Title X Family Planning grantees on efforts related to outreach and enrollment to

assist individuals in obtaining health insurance available as a result of the Affordable Care Act (ACA). Grantees will be asked to collect and report information on the numbers of individuals who are; (1) Assisted by a trained health center worker; (2) number of individuals who receive an eligibility determination for the marketplace, Medicaid or CHIP with the assistance of a trained worker; and (3) number of individuals who enroll in an insurance program with the assistance of a trained worker. The information will be reported for all sites in their grantee network.

Comments on this proposed information collection are due by January 6, 2014.

Read the notice at: <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2013-11-05/pdf/2013-26401.pdf>

11/1/13 HHS/CMS published a notice seeking comments on proposed information collection activities related to Marketplace Consumer Experience Surveys. ACA §1311(c)(4) requires HHS to develop an enrollee satisfaction survey (ESS) system that assesses consumer experience with qualified health plans (QHPs) offered through an Exchange. It also requires public display of enrollee satisfaction information by the Exchange to allow individuals to easily compare enrollee satisfaction levels between comparable plans. The HHS intends to establish two surveys that assess consumer experience with the Marketplaces and the QHPs offered through the Marketplaces. The surveys will include topics to assess consumer experience with the Marketplace such as enrollment and customer service, as well as experience with the health care system such as communication skills of providers and ease of access to health care services.

HHS is considering using the Consumer Assessment of Health Providers and Systems (CAHPSR) principles for developing the surveys and has proposed an application and approval process for enrollee satisfaction survey vendors who want to participate in collecting ESS data. The Marketplace Survey will provide (1) Actionable information that the Marketplaces can use to improve performance, (2) information that CMS and state regulatory organizations can use for general oversight, and (3) a longitudinal database for future Marketplace research. The CAHPSR family of instruments does not have a survey that assesses entities similar to Marketplaces, so the Marketplace survey items were generated by the project team. The QHP Enrollee Experience survey will (1) help consumers choose among competing health plans, (2) provide actionable information that the QHPs can use to improve performance, (3) provide information that regulatory and accreditation organizations can use to regulate and accredit plans, and (4) provide a longitudinal database for consumer research. HHS plans to base the QHP survey on the CAHPSR Health Plan Survey.

Comments on this proposed information collection are due by December 2, 2013.

Read the notice (see item #2) at: <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2013-11-01/pdf/2013-26107.pdf>

Prior guidance can be found at: <http://www.hhs.gov/healthcare/index.html>

Commonwealth of MA News

MassHealth to hold One Care Q&A in Framingham

MassHealth representatives will be in Framingham on Friday, November 22 for a presentation and Q&A on One Care. One Care is a new option for people with disabilities who are 21-64 years old to get the full set of services provided by MassHealth and Medicare, including Medicare Part D. More information about this free community information session is below.

Date: Friday, November 22, 2013

Time: 1:00-3:00 PM

Location: Framingham Public Library, Costin Room
49 Lexington St., Framingham

American Sign Language interpreters and a CART Reporter will be present. Those who need language assistance to participate should email onecare@state.ma.us.

Bookmark the **Massachusetts National Health Care Reform website** at: [National Health Care Reform](#) to read updates on ACA implementation in Massachusetts.

Remember to check the Mass.Gov website at: [Dual Eligibles](#) for information on the **"Integrating Medicare and Medicaid for Dual Eligible Individuals"** initiative.