



AFFORDABLE CARE ACT MASSACHUSETTS IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE

April 21, 2015

Quick Links

[MA-ACA Website](#)



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 Announcements

Increasing the Immunization Information System (IIS) Sentinel Site Capacity for Enhanced Program Support, §4204. Announced April 10, 2015. Continued funds are available for increased national support to local broad immunization program activities to ensure high vaccination coverage, respond to outbreaks of vaccine preventable disease, and monitor the impact of disease prevention activities. Eligible applicants are limited to previously awarded grantees, one of which is located in Massachusetts. There are fifty awards available.

Applications are due May 29, 2015.

An IIS is a confidential, population-based, computerized database that records all immunization doses administered by participating providers to persons residing within a given geopolitical area.

For more information regarding this program please visit: www.cdc.gov/vaccines/programs/iis/index.html

View the announcement at: GRANTS.GOV

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: www.mass.gov/eohhs/gov/commissions-and-initiatives/healthcare-reform/national-health-care-reform-plan/grants-and-demonstrations.html

Guidance

HHS/CMS issued a proposed rule called "Medicaid Program; Mechanized Claims Processing and Information Retrieval Systems (90/10)." The proposed rule implements portions of ACA § 1104 and 1561.

The proposed rule would extend access to enhanced federal funding for Medicaid eligibility and enrollment systems work past the current regulatory deadline of December 31, 2015.

According to CMS, the additional time and funding will allow states to complete fully modernized systems, to improve customer service, and will support the dynamic nature of national Medicaid eligibility and enrollment, and delivery system needs. The enhanced funding is only available for state projects that adhere to certain updated standards and conditions which are laid out in the proposed rule.

Comments are due June 15, 2015.

For more information about the proposed rule, visit: www.medicaid.gov/medicaid-chip-program-information/by-topics/data-and-systems/data-and-systems.html

Read the rule (which was published in the Federal Register on April 16, 2015) at: www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2015-04-16/pdf/2015-08754.pdf

4/10/15 IRS/Treasury issued Notice 2015-30, Penalty Relief Related to Incorrect or Delayed Forms 1095-A. The guidance formalizes an [announcement](#) made by the Treasury on April 3, 2015 and provides limited penalty relief for taxpayers who received a Form 1095-A, Health Insurance Marketplace Statement, that was incorrect or delayed and who timely filed their 2014 income tax return, including extensions. This guidance implements penalty relief for individuals in this situation as long as they file a tax return by October 15, 2015.

According to the agency, taxpayers receiving erroneous or delayed 2014 Forms 1095-A should request an automatic extension with the IRS by April 15, 2015. When taxpayers receive their corrected Form 1095-A, they should file their return using the information from the corrected form. According to the IRS, if a taxpayer receives their corrected Form 1095-A before April 15, 2015 and is able to file using the form before the deadline, they should do so. In other words, a taxpayer must either (1) file a return by April 15 if they are able to do so, or (2) request an extension by April 15 and file a return by October 15.

This announcement builds on [previously announced relief](#) (from March 20, 2015) that any individual who enrolled in qualifying Marketplace coverage, received an incorrect Form 1095-A, and filed his or her tax return based on that form does not need to file an amended tax return. The IRS will not pursue the collection of any additional taxes from these individuals based on updated information in the corrected forms.

For additional information, read the IRS's FAQs at: www.irs.gov/Affordable-Care-Act/Individuals-and-Families/Questions-and-Answers-Incorrect-Forms-1095A-and-the-Premium-Tax-Credit

Read the notice at: www.irs.gov/pub/irs-drop/n-15-30.pdf

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

News

4/15/15 The Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI) approved almost \$1.1 million for six awards through the Eugene PCORI Engagement Program.

The Eugene Washington PCORI Engagement Awards encourage active integration of patients, caregivers, clinicians, and other healthcare stakeholders who are part of the medical research process. The program provides a platform to expand the role of these stakeholders in research and to support PCORI engagement strategies that include developing a skilled community of patients and other stakeholders.

The six awards granted will be used for studies being conducted at the University of Alabama, the Regents of the University of Colorado – Denver, the University of Maryland, the Drug Information Association, the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio and the Medical Technology and Practice Patterns Institute.

Created under ACA §6301, PCORI is an independent nonprofit organization, tasked with conducting patient-centered outcomes and studies.

To learn more about these awards, visit: PCORI.ORG

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Upcoming Events

Integrating Medicare and Medicaid for Dual Eligible Individuals (also known as One Care) Implementation Council Meetings

Friday, April 24, 2015
2:00 PM - 4:00 PM
1 Ashburton Place, 21st Floor
Boston, MA

Friday, May 29, 2015
1:00 PM - 3:00 PM
1 Ashburton Place, 21st Floor
Boston, MA

MBTA and driving directions to the Transportation Building are available here: www.mhd.state.ma.us/default.asp?pgid=dist/HQ_directions&sid=about.

MBTA and driving directions to 1 Ashburton Place are located here: www.sec.state.ma.us/secdir.htm.

A meeting agenda and any meeting material will be distributed prior to the meeting.

Reasonable accommodations are available upon request. Please contact Donna Kymalainen at Donna.Kymalainen@umassmed.edu to request accommodations.

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.



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