



AFFORDABLE CARE ACT MASSACHUSETTS IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE

August 17, 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 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

8/11/15 CMS/HHS issued a notice under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA) seeking comments on a new information collection activity related to Transparency in Coverage Reporting by Qualified Health Plan (QHP) Issuers.

ACA §1311(e)(3) requires issuers of QHPs to make available and submit data regarding transparency in coverage. This data collection would collect certain information from QHP issuers in Federally-facilitated Exchanges and State-based Exchanges that rely on the federal IT platform (HealthCare.gov). Although this proposed data collection is limited to certain QHP issuers, the agency intends to phase in implementation for other entities over time. As stated in the [Establishment of Exchanges and Qualified Health Plans; Exchange Standards for Employers Final Rule](#) (which was published in the Federal Register on March 27, 2012), broader implementation will continue to be addressed in separate rulemaking issued by HHS, DOL the Treasury.

According to HHS, the aforementioned Departments intend to propose other transparency reporting requirements at a future date, through a separate rulemaking conducted by the Departments, for non-QHP issuers and non-grandfathered group health plans. Those proposed reporting requirements may differ from those prescribed in the HHS proposal under ACA §1311(e)(3), and will take into account differences in markets and reporting requirements already in existence for non-QHPs (including group health plans). Furthermore, HHS states that the Departments intend to streamline reporting under multiple reporting provisions and reduce unnecessary duplication. The Departments also intend to implement any transparency reporting requirements applicable to non-QHP issuers

and non-grandfathered group health plans only after giving those issuers and plans sufficient time to come into compliance with those requirements.

Comments are due October 13, 2015.

Read the notice (which was published in the Federal Register on August 12, 2015) at: www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2015-08-12/pdf/2015-19818.pdf (see item #2)

8/11/15 HHS/DOL/Treasury issued FAQ Part XXVIII, regarding the implementation of the ACA, specifically regarding Future Tri-Department Transparency Reporting Rulemaking for Non-QHP Coverage.

FAQ Part 28 publishes information about the proposed information collection issued on August 11, 2015 by HHS in connection with the transparency provisions of ACA §1311(e)(3).

The notice, issued under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA), seeks comments on a new information collection activity related to Transparency in Coverage Reporting by Qualified Health Plan (QHP) Issuers.

For additional information on the HHS notice, see the "Guidance" story above.

Read FAQ Part 28 at: www.dol.gov/ebsa/faqs/faq-aca28.html

News

8/13/15 Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI) announced more than \$1 million in awards for six grantees through the Eugene Washington PCORI Engagement Program.

The Eugene Washington PCORI Engagement Awards encourage the 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 will be used for studies being conducted at six sites nationally, including The Boston Medical College at Boston University.

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

The deadline to submit Letters of Inquiry for the next round of funding under this opportunity is October 1, 2015.

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

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8/11/15 HHS announced that approximately \$169 million in Health Center New Access Point Grants were awarded to support 266 health center sites across the country. The investments, authorized by ACA §10503, will increase access to comprehensive primary health care services in communities in 46 states and two U.S. territories. In total, these new health centers are projected to increase access to health care services for nearly 1.2 million patients.

This investment will add to the more than 700 new health center sites that have opened as a result of the ACA. Currently, nearly 1,300 health centers operate more than 9,000 service delivery sites that provide care to nearly 23 million patients. Since 2013, health centers assisted more than 9 million individuals in their efforts to become insured.

As community-based organizations, health centers are prepared to be responsive to the specific health care needs of their community. Health Center New Access Point Grants support the establishment of new service delivery sites and expand access to high quality health care. Health centers serve a crucial outreach function by providing individuals with the information and assistance they need to enroll in health insurance through the Health Insurance Exchange

(Marketplace).

In Massachusetts, \$4,086,109 was awarded to six health centers. These awards will be used to serve 43,758 new patients across the Commonwealth.

Read the full press release at: HHS.GOV

For a list of awardees by state, visit: HRSA.GOV

Upcoming Events

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

Friday, September 11, 2015, 1:00 PM-3:00 PM
1 Ashburton Place, 21st Floor
Boston, MA

We welcome attendance at all meetings from all stakeholders and members of the public with an interest in One Care. Reasonable accommodations will be made for participants who need assistance. Please send your request for accommodations to Donna Kymalainen at Donna.Kymalainen@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.



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