



AFFORDABLE CARE ACT MASSACHUSETTS IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE

October 5, 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

On September 10, 2015 MassHealth was awarded \$398,580 by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)/CMS for a grant called "Improving Maternal and Infant Health Outcomes in Medicaid and CHIP." The funding, which is authorized under ACA §2701, will support the testing, collecting, and reporting of data being sent to CMS for a new developmental quality measure as part of the Center for Medicaid and CHIP Services (CMCS) Maternal and Infant Health Initiative.

MassHealth will use the funds to identify and implement the most reliable and valid method for collecting and reporting on the developmental measure, "Use of Contraceptive Methods by Women Ages 21-44 Years." MassHealth will test the reliability and validity of the measure produced using existing data systems and develop recommendations for improving the data required for the measure. As part of the grant, MassHealth will partner with the Massachusetts Department of Public Health.

In total, HHS awarded fourteen states four year awards totaling \$5,316,048.

To learn more about this initiative and these awards, visit: [Medicaid.gov](#)

Read the abstract at: www.mass.gov/eohhs/docs/eohhs/healthcare-reform/grants/150707-sec-2701-contraceptive-use.pdf

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

10/1/15 HHS/CMS issued a correction to a final rule called “Medicare Program; Inpatient Psychiatric Facilities Prospective Payment System - Update for Fiscal Year Beginning October 1, 2014 (FY 2015).”

The document corrects technical errors in the [final rule](#) that was published in the Federal Register on August 6, 2014.

The final rule implements portions of the ACA §3401 and §10322. The final rule updates the prospective payment rates for Medicare inpatient hospital services provided by inpatient psychiatric facilities.

Read the correction at: www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2015-10-01/pdf/2015-24998.pdf

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

News

9/29/15 HHS/CMS awarded \$685 million to 39 national and regional health care networks to help provide high quality, patient-centered care. The awards were made by the CMS Innovation Center, which is authorized under ACA §3021.

Overall, 39 national and regional health care networks and supporting organizations received awards to help equip more than 140,000 clinicians with tools and support needed to improve quality of care, increase patient access to information, and reduce costs. The awards will support medical group practices, regional health care systems, and regional extension centers in offering peer-to-peer support to primary and specialty physicians, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, clinical pharmacists, and their practices.

The funds were awarded under the Transforming Clinical Practice Initiative, one of the largest federal investments designed to support doctors and other clinicians in the 50 states through collaborative and peer-based learning networks.

The University of Massachusetts Medical School was one of the awardees. Their awarded funding will be used to engage approximately 5,400 clinicians through the readiness phases of practice transformation, preparing participants to adopt new payment models that reward improved clinical outcomes, and reduce hospitalizations and other unnecessary testing.

For a complete list of awardees, visit: CMS.GOV

To read this announcement, visit: HHS.GOV

9/29/15 The Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI) Board of Governors today approved \$83 million to fund 26 patient-centered, comparative clinical effectiveness research (CER) studies on a range of conditions and patient populations. Created under ACA §6301, PCORI is an independent nonprofit organization, tasked with conducting patient-centered outcomes research and studies.

Approved funding will support 26 new patient-centered comparative CER projects. Two of the new awards totaling \$29.5 million will support studies on caring for people infected with hepatitis C virus. In addition, awards totaling nearly \$7.4 million will fund research on rare conditions in response to PCORI's offer of a special pool of funding to support rare disease research. The remaining funding will be used for PCORI's development of targeted funding announcements for treatment of people with multiple sclerosis and long-term opioid use for chronic pain.

For more information about these awards, visit PCORI.ORG

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9/25/15 CMS awarded \$110 in funding to continue efforts to reduce preventable hospital-acquired conditions and readmissions. The funding, which is authorized under ACA §3021, will continue patient safety improvement efforts in hospitals.

Seventeen national, regional, state hospital associations or health system organizations were awarded funding to continue efforts through the Partnership for Patients initiative to reduce preventable hospital-acquired conditions.

The Partnership for Patients initiative is a nationwide public-private collaboration that began in 2011 to reduce preventable hospital-acquired conditions by 40% and 30-day readmissions by 20%. This funding is the second round of the Hospital Engagement Networks which will continue to work to improve patient care in the hospital setting.

The Partnership for Patients and the Hospital Engagement Networks are one part of an overall framework established by the ACA to deliver better care, spend dollars more wisely, and improve care.

To learn more about this announcement and for list of organizations receiving awards, visit: CMS.GOV

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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