



## AFFORDABLE CARE ACT MASSACHUSETTS IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE

November 09, 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

**Guidelines for Women's Preventive Services, §2713.** Announced November 3, 2015.

Funding is available to improve adult women's health across the lifespan by engaging a coalition of health professional organizations who will recommend updates to the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) supported Women's Preventive Services Guidelines. The current guidelines were developed in 2011 based on recommendations from an HHS-commissioned study by the National Academy of Medicine (NAM), formerly known as the Institute of Medicine. The funding opportunity requires that the awardee create an external review committee to conduct reviews and propose updates and revisions to the current guidelines.

Eligible applicants include public and private entities; Indian tribes and tribal organizations; and faith-based or community-based organizations. \$950,000 is available for one award.

Applications are due January 4, 2016.

More information about the current HRSA Guidelines is available at: [www.healthcare.gov/preventive-care-women/](http://www.healthcare.gov/preventive-care-women/)

The announcement may be viewed at [GRANTS.GOV](http://GRANTS.GOV)

**Nurse Education Practice, Quality and Retentions – Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) Practicums in Community Settings Program, §5309.** Announced October 29, 2015.

Funding is available to increase the number of BSN students with meaningful clinical experience and training in medically underserved and rural communities. BSN graduates will receive experiential training that increases BSN students' exposure to some of the nation's most vulnerable and underserved populations that reside in rural community-based settings.

Eligible applicants are limited to accredited schools of nursing, health care facilities, or an organization that has a partnership with such school or facility. \$6,000,000 is available for twelve awards.

Applications are due January 1, 2016.

The announcement may be viewed at: [GRANTS.GOV](http://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](http://www.mass.gov/eohhs/gov/commissions-and-initiatives/healthcare-reform/national-health-care-reform-plan/grants-and-demonstrations.html)

## Guidance

### **10/30/15 HHS/CMS issued a notice under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA) seeking comments on the extension of a currently approved information collection activity related to Consumer Assistance Program Grants.**

ACA §1002 provides for the establishment of consumer assistance programs (CAPs). CAPs are independent offices that provide consumer support by helping with filing complaints and appeals regarding health insurance coverage requirements, assisting with enrollment into group health plans and health insurance coverage, providing education on group health plans and health insurance coverage, and helping resolve related problems with the enrollment process.

Grant recipients are required to collect and report data to the HHS Secretary on the types of problems and inquiries encountered by consumers. In turn, HHS is required to share program data reports with the Departments of Labor and Treasury, and various state regulators. Program data can offer CCIIO some information on the effectiveness of state enforcement of insurance-related issues and possible opportunities to provide technical assistance and support to state insurance regulators.

More information about Consumer Assistance Programs can found at: [www.cms.gov/CCIIO/Resources/Consumer-Assistance-Grants/](http://www.cms.gov/CCIIO/Resources/Consumer-Assistance-Grants/)

Read the notice (which was published in the Federal Register on November 2, 2015) at: [www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2015-11-02/pdf/2015-27859.pdf](http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2015-11-02/pdf/2015-27859.pdf)

### **10/29/15 HHS/CMS issued a final rule called "Medicare and Medicaid Programs; CY 2016 Home Health Prospective Payment System Rate Update; Home Health Value-Based Purchasing Model; and Home Health Quality Reporting Requirements." The rule implements portions of ACA §3006, 3131 and 3401.**

The final rule updates Home Health Prospective Payment System (HH PPS) rates, including the national, standardized 60-day episode payment rates, the national per-visit rates, and the non-routine medical supply conversion factor under the Medicare prospective payment system for home health agencies, effective for episodes ending on or after January 1, 2016. As required by the ACA, the rule implements the 3rd year of the 4-year phase-in of the rebasing adjustments to the HH PPS payment rates.

Read the rule (which was published in the Federal Register on November 5, 2015) at: [www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2015-11-05/pdf/2015-27931.pdf](http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2015-11-05/pdf/2015-27931.pdf)

### **10/29/15 HHS/CMS issued a final rule called "Medicare Program; End-Stage Renal Disease Prospective Payment System, and Quality Incentive Program." The rule implements portions of ACA §3127 and 3401.**

The final rule updates and makes revisions to the End-Stage Renal Disease (ESRD)

Prospective Payment System for calendar year 2016. According to CMS, the rule ensures that ESRD facilities receive accurate Medicare payment amounts for furnishing outpatient maintenance dialysis treatments during calendar year

2016. The rule also establishes requirements for the ESRD Quality Incentive Program.

Read the rule (which was published in the Federal Register on November 6, 2015) at: [www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2015-11-06/pdf/2015-27928.pdf](http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2015-11-06/pdf/2015-27928.pdf)

Prior guidance can be found at: [www.hhs.gov/healthcare/index.html](http://www.hhs.gov/healthcare/index.html)

## Upcoming Events

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

Friday, November 13, 2015 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM  
Transportation Building  
10 Park Plaza  
Boston, MA

Friday, December 11, 2015 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM  
1 Ashburton Place, 21st Floor  
Boston, MA

We welcome attendance 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](mailto:Donna.Kymalainen@state.ma.us)

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

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



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