



AFFORDABLE CARE ACT MASSACHUSETTS IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE

December 14, 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

12/11/15 HHS/CMS issued a notice under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA) seeking comments on the revision of a currently approved information collection activity related to the Data Collection to Support Eligibility Determinations and Enrollment for Employees in the Small Business Health Options Program. The ACA expanded access to health insurance for individuals and employees of small businesses through the establishment of new Affordable Insurance Exchanges, including the Small Business Health Options Program (SHOP). ACA §1311(b)(1)(B) requires that the SHOP assist qualified small employers in facilitating the enrollment of their employees in qualified health plans (QHPs) offered in the small group market. §1311 also directs HHS to establish criteria for the certification of health plans as QHPs and plans to utilize a uniform enrollment form for qualified employers and HHS to develop a web site that assists employers in determining if they are eligible to participate in SHOP.

Comments are due February 9, 2016.

Read the notice at: <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2015-12-11/pdf/2015-31302.pdf> (see item #2 and #3)

News

12/2/15 CMS released the agency's 2014 National Health Expenditures report. According to the

report, aggregate health expenditures increased last year as millions of Americans gained health insurance coverage and the cost of prescription drugs increased.

A study by the Office of the Actuary at CMS showed that in 2014 per-capita health care spending grew by 4.5% and overall health spending grew by 5.3%. In addition, consumer out-of-pocket spending increased by 1.3% in 2014, compared to 2.4% in 2013. According to the report, this spending increased due to the number of individuals now receiving health insurance benefits. Overall, spending on prescription drugs grew by 12.2 % in 2014, compared to 2.4% growth in 2013, fueled largely by spending for new medicines, particularly for specialty drugs such as those used to treat hepatitis C.

On a per-enrollee basis, overall spending increased by 3.2% in private health insurance and 2.4% for Medicare, while it decreased by 2.0% in Medicaid.

To learn more about this report, visit: CMS.GOV

Upcoming Events

Money Follows the Person (MFP) Semi-Annual Informational Meeting

Wednesday, December 16, 2015
2:00 PM – 3:30 PM
Worcester Public Library
3 Salem Street
Worcester, MA 01608

The Massachusetts MFP Project Office holds this meeting semi-annually to provide stakeholders and other interested parties the opportunity to stay current on MFP Demonstration activities and topics related to program success. Please contact MFP@state.ma.us to RSVP and to request reasonable accommodations. Although RSVPs are greatly appreciated, they are not required.

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

Friday January 15, 2015
1:00 PM – 3:00 PM
1 Ashburton Place, 21st Floor
Boston, MA 02108

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.

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.



Follow **MassHealth** on YouTube!



Follow **MassHealth** on Twitter!

To subscribe to receive the ACA Update, send an email to: join-ehs-ma-aca-update@listserv.state.ma.us. To unsubscribe from the ACA Update, send an email to: leave-ehs-ma-aca-update@listserv.state.ma.us. Note: When you click on the sign up link, a blank e-mail should appear. If your settings prevent this, you may also copy and paste join-ehs-ma-aca-update@listserv.state.ma.us into the address line of a blank e-mail. Just send the blank e-mail as it's addressed. No text in the body or subject line is needed.