



AFFORDABLE CARE ACT MASSACHUSETTS IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE

July 27, 2016

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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.

Commonwealth of MA News

MassHealth Section 1115 Demonstration Extension

The Massachusetts Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS) has submitted its request to amend and extend the MassHealth Section 1115 Demonstration to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).

MassHealth has proposed a five-year extension of its 1115 Demonstration, starting July 1, 2017, in order to advance alternative payment methodologies and delivery system reform through Accountable Care Organizations and certified Community Partners for behavioral health and long term services and supports. A significant focus will be placed on improving integration and delivery of care for members with behavioral health needs and those with dual diagnoses of substance abuse disorder; as well as integration of long term services (LTSS) and supports and health-related social services. In addition, MassHealth plans to expand treatment for individuals affected by substance use disorder, including opioid addiction.

EOHHS appreciates everyone that submitted comments on the draft proposal. Every comment was reviewed and considered while finalizing the proposal for CMS. Many commenters were enthusiastic about the proposal overall. In particular, multiple commenters applauded the goals of payment and delivery reform and key parts of the proposal, including:

- the shift to payment and care delivery models focused on the quality, coordination and total costs of care,
- integration of physical health with behavioral health and LTSS,
- acknowledgment of the importance of community-based services and social supports, and
- expansion of services for members with substance use disorders.

Commenters also expressed appreciation for the extensive stakeholder engagement process that informed the development of this proposal and recommended that MassHealth continue a robust stakeholder engagement process through the further planning and implementation of MassHealth's ACO initiative. MassHealth is committed to continued transparency and stakeholder input throughout the implementation of these reforms.

Commenters offered a range of suggestions and viewpoints. A synopsis of the major themes from the public comments, and MassHealth's responses, are included in the final proposal. The final proposal, along with copies of all written comments received during the public comment period, is available on the MassHealth Innovations website:

www.mass.gov/hhs/masshealth-innovations.

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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