



**Commonwealth of Massachusetts**  
**Executive Office of Health and Human Services**  
**Office of Medicaid**  
600 Washington Street  
Boston, MA 02111  
[www.mass.gov/masshealth](http://www.mass.gov/masshealth)



**MassHealth**  
**Acute Inpatient Hospital**  
**Bulletin 128**  
**May 2004**

**TO:** Acute Inpatient Hospitals Participating in MassHealth  
**FROM:** Beth Waldman, Medicaid Director *BW*  
**RE:** **Revisions to the Nursing Facility Preadmission Process**

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**Introduction**

This bulletin provides a detailed description of procedural changes concerning the roles and responsibilities of acute inpatient hospitals (AIHs) as they relate to the nursing-facility clinical-eligibility screening process for MassHealth members and applicants. These revisions are effective **June 1, 2004**.

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**Current Process**

AIHs determine nursing-facility clinical eligibility for MassHealth-only members, MassHealth applicants, and the dually eligible population (those with Medicare and Medicaid). The Request for Services (RFS), MDS-HC, and eligibility/OBRA/PASARR forms are completed and used by the AIH to determine clinical eligibility for nursing-facility services. The hospital may grant short-term eligibility authorizations for up to 90 days or, under limited circumstances, a long-term approval. The documents are then forwarded to the local Aging Service Access Point (ASAP) along with the AIH notice of clinical eligibility. The AIH issues the Notice of Clinical Eligibility to the member/applicant and to the nursing facility. The AIH discharges the patient to the nursing facility per current protocol. The ASAP provides an administrative review of this documentation.

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**What Is Changing**

The AIH will continue to determine clinical eligibility for nursing-facility services for the following populations: MassHealth-only, MassHealth applicants with no other primary payer source for NF services (that is, the uninsured), and for MassHealth applicants and dually eligible individuals when there is a nonqualifying Medicare hospital stay (less than three days). However, under this new process, short-term approvals granted by AIHs will be for only 45 days of nursing-facility services, rather than for up to 90 days. AIHs will continue to grant long-term approvals under the limited circumstances, as described in the current guidelines.

(See attachment: revised AIH Admission Notice. You may make copies of this notice, or may contact MassHealth Provider Services for additional copies. The address is provided at the end of this bulletin.)

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***What Is Changing***  
(cont.)

**AIHs will no longer determine nursing-facility clinical eligibility for MassHealth applicants or dually eligible members.** These populations will receive Medicare reimbursement or another primary insurer's reimbursement for nursing-facility services on admission to the nursing facility.

AIHs will transfer these individuals to nursing facilities without a clinical screening or notice of clinical eligibility from MassHealth. For those MassHealth members who are dually eligible, MassHealth will continue to cover the appropriate nursing-facility coinsurance and deductibles. The nursing-facility coinsurance and deductible payments from MassHealth do not require clinical eligibility.

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***What Is Not Changing***

AIHs will continue to determine nursing-facility clinical eligibility for Medicaid-only MassHealth members, and individuals who at the time of hospital discharge have no nursing facility payer source and for whom MassHealth will be the sole source of payment for the nursing facility from the first day of admission.

The OBRA/PASARR screening for all individuals seeking admission to a nursing facility remains the same. All individuals, regardless of payment source, seeking admission to a nursing facility must be reviewed for the need of a Level II PAS before admission. If an individual requires a Level II PAS, the hospital must notify DMR or DMH/HES. The Level II PAS must be completed and the individual determined clinically eligible for nursing-facility services before admission. Where applicable, attach the findings to the Notice of Eligibility.

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***Questions***

If you have any questions about the information in this bulletin, please contact MassHealth Provider Services at 617-628-4141 or 1-800-325-5231. For additional copies of the revised AIH Admission Notice, you must make your request in writing. Include your provider number, address, and telephone number, and the exact title of the form. Send it to the following address.

MassHealth  
Forms Distribution  
P.O. Box 9101  
Somerville, MA 02145  
617-576-4087 (fax)  
703-917-4937 (fax)

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

SSN: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## NURSING FACILITY CLINICAL ELIGIBILITY

This notice is sent in response to your request for approval of MassHealth payment of nursing-facility services. In order to qualify for MassHealth payment of nursing-facility services, you must be both clinically and financially eligible for services. *This notice is about your clinical eligibility.* You will receive a separate notice about your financial eligibility.

### 1. MASSHEALTH SCREENINGS

MassHealth screenings to determine clinical eligibility for nursing-facility services are conducted by \_\_\_\_\_ Hospital. The hospital nurse reviewed your case in accordance with MassHealth regulations at 130 CMR 456.408, and has determined:

- you **are** clinically eligible for MassHealth payment of nursing-facility services on a **short-term basis**, for a stay up to 45 days. Your continued eligibility is subject to review.
- you **are** clinically eligible for MassHealth payment of nursing-facility services on a **long-term basis**. During your stay, periodic medical reviews may be conducted to determine if you continue to meet the medical criteria for MassHealth payment.
- you **are not** eligible for MassHealth payment of nursing-facility services, because:
  - the level of medically necessary services that you require is less than that required for MassHealth payment of nursing-facility services, as set forth in 130 CMR 450.204 and 456.408.
  - your medical needs can be met in the community, and services are available.
  - you do not qualify based on the results of the Level II Preadmission Screening (PAS). (See page 2.)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## 2. PREADMISSION SCREENING FOR MENTAL ILLNESS, MENTAL RETARDATION, AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY SCREENINGS

**IF YOU ARE BEING ADMITTED TO A NURSING FACILITY**, federal and state laws require that you be screened to determine whether you have a mental illness, mental retardation, or developmental disability, and, if so, whether nursing-facility placement is appropriate for you.

Your medical needs have been reviewed and found that:

- there is **no indication** of mental illness, mental retardation, or developmental disability, and thus nursing-facility placement is appropriate.
- there is **an indication** of mental illness, mental retardation, or developmental disability, but one of the conditions described in 130 CMR 456.410 applies, and thus the diagnosis does not qualify for a further review and nursing-facility placement is appropriate.
- there is **an indication** of mental illness, mental retardation or developmental disability; your case was referred to the Department of Mental Health and/or Department of Mental Retardation, as appropriate, for a PAS, and the results are:
  - nursing-facility placement is appropriate for you; or
  - nursing-facility placement is not appropriate for you.

*(Please refer to attached findings.)*

Date of current Level II PAS: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Hospital RN

## 3. APPEAL RIGHTS

**APPEAL THESE DECISIONS.** (Please see attached information about your right to appeal through the Fair Hearing process.)