




**MassHealth**  
**Acute Inpatient Hospital Bulletin 155**  
**May 2016**

**TO:** Acute Inpatient Hospitals Participating in MassHealth  
**FROM:** Daniel Tsai, Assistant Secretary for MassHealth   
**RE:** **Inpatient Services for Incarcerated Individuals**

### **Background**

The purpose of this bulletin is to communicate the details of MassHealth coverage for certain inpatient services provided to incarcerated individuals who otherwise qualify for MassHealth.

MassHealth has changed the process for providing medical coverage to certain incarcerated individuals of Department of Correction (DOC) and House of Correction (HOC) facilities. These procedures relate only to those incarcerated individuals who are in inpatient hospital status (the inmate is admitted as an inpatient into a hospital setting for a stay of at least 24 consecutive hours and will return to the prison facility upon hospital discharge).

During an inpatient hospital stay, claims for inpatient hospital services for eligible incarcerated individuals are covered by MassHealth instead of through DOC/HOC resources.

### **Billing Instructions**

Inpatient hospital coverage applies only to services provided to eligible incarcerated individuals on an inpatient basis. Coverage for inpatient services is provided on a fee-for-service basis. A MassHealth card is not issued for these individuals. The claims restriction, "Inpatient Services Only," will appear on Eligibility Verification System (EVS) for these incarcerated individuals.

If an incarcerated individual is not eligible for MassHealth or receives any services other than those included in the covered inpatient stay, the provider should bill the DOC/HOC for the services.

If an incarcerated individual with approved MassHealth inpatient benefits was enrolled in Medicare, regardless of any suspension of benefits, the provider should bill Medicare as the primary payer. If Medicare denies a claim, the provider can submit a claim to MassHealth for payment.

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### **Billing Instructions (*cont.*)**

Providers who verify eligibility using MassHealth's Eligibility Verification System (EVS) may see the following new aid categories for members who are incarcerated and require inpatient services.

- Standard – Inpatient Services Only
- CarePlus – Inpatient Services Only
- Limited – Inpatient Services Only

Once eligibility has been verified through EVS, claims should be submitted through the Provider Online Service Center (POSC) for review and consideration.

### **Questions**

If you have any questions about the information in this bulletin, please contact the MassHealth Customer Service Center at 1-800-841-2900, e-mail your inquiry to [providersupport@mahealth.net](mailto:providersupport@mahealth.net), or fax your inquiry to 617-988-8974.