




**MassHealth**  
**Acute Inpatient Hospital Bulletin 169**  
**May 2019**

**TO:** Acute Inpatient Hospital Providers Participating in MassHealth

**FROM:** Daniel Tsai, Assistant Secretary for MassHealth 

**RE: In-State Acute Hospital 30-day Readmissions Policy —Extension of Transitional Period and Postponement of Full Implementation Period**

**Background—30-day Readmissions Policy**

MassHealth implemented a new acute inpatient hospital 30-day Readmissions Policy applicable to participating in-state MassHealth acute hospital providers as part of the Rate Year 2019 Acute Hospital Request for Applications and Hospital Contract (RFA).<sup>1</sup> This 30-day Readmissions Policy, which is set forth in Section 8.1 of the RFA, applies to certain acute inpatient hospital readmissions that occur within 30 days of the date of discharge from the same acute inpatient hospital. Under Section 8.1 of the RFA, MassHealth introduced the policy by implementing a Transitional Period to provide hospitals an opportunity to prepare for the Full Implementation Start Date, which is when the Full Implementation Period begins and the policy becomes fully operational. Capitalized terms used in this Bulletin have the meanings set forth in Section 8.1 of the RFA.

**Notification of Extension of Transitional Period and Postponement of Full Implementation Period**

Under Section 8.1 of the RFA, the Full Implementation Start Date of the 30-day Readmissions Policy is scheduled to begin with Index Admissions having a discharge date on or after May 1, 2019 “*or such later date as specified by EOHHS in a formal written issuance, at EOHHS' sole discretion.*” (Emphasis added). EOHHS is now notifying in-state acute hospitals through this Bulletin that it has determined to postpone the Full Implementation Start Date of the 30-day Readmissions Policy, and is accordingly extending the Transitional Period of the policy until further notice. The terms within Section 8.1 of the RFA that govern the Transitional Period will continue to apply during this time.

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<sup>1</sup> The Rate Year 2019 RFA was effective November 1, 2018.

## **Questions**

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

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