



Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Health and Human Services
Office of Medicaid
www.mass.gov/masshealth

MassHealth
Acute Inpatient Hospital Bulletin 177
August 2020

TO: Acute Inpatient Hospitals Participating in MassHealth

FROM: Amanda Cassel Kraft, Acting Medicaid Director

RE: Limited Modification and Extension of Financial Support for Certain Acute Inpatient Hospitals with DMH-Licensed Beds in Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic

Background

MassHealth's mission is to improve the health outcomes of our diverse members and their families by providing access to integrated health care services that sustainably and equitably promote health, well-being, independence, and quality of life. In support of that mission, MassHealth provides broad coverage of medically necessary health care services to its members. MassHealth partners with a wide variety of service providers, including vital safety net providers, in order to offer its members access.

As described in greater detail in Acute Inpatient Hospital Bulletin 175, in light of the 2019 novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak, and to address the increased costs associated with the COVID-19 response, MassHealth has provided time-limited financial support to acute inpatient hospitals with Department of Mental Health (DMH)-licensed beds (applicable hospitals) meeting specific eligibility criteria. As further described in this bulletin, MassHealth will modify and extend some of the financial support described in Acute Inpatient Hospital Bulletin 175 by implementing temporary incremental increases to the psychiatric per diem rate and, for certain admissions, the administrative day rate, for units with DMH-licensed beds within applicable hospitals (applicable units) that have received Tier 2 designation by DMH. For the avoidance of doubt, applicable units designated as Tier 1 by DMH will not receive temporary incremental rate increases pursuant to this bulletin—MassHealth will reimburse such units in accordance with Amendment 5 to the Amended Rate Year 2020 Acute Hospital Request for Applications and Contract (RFA).¹

Modification and Extension of Temporary Incremental Psychiatric per Diem and Administrative Day Rate Increases for Tier 2 Facilities

Based on an applicable hospital's or applicable unit's designation by DMH and compliance with other requirements detailed in this bulletin and to be set forth in an upcoming amendment to the RFA, MassHealth will increase the psychiatric per diem and administrative day rates set forth in the RFA as follows.

¹ If an applicable hospital has multiple psychiatric units, only stays within the applicable units designated as Tier 2 by DMH are eligible for the rate increases described in this bulletin.

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Tier	Temporary incremental payment increases for psychiatric per diem and administrative day rates
Tier 2	\$94 above current psychiatric per diem rate for behavioral health admissions to a Tier 2 applicable unit; \$94 above current administrative day rate for members discharged to administrative day status following a behavioral health admission to a Tier 2 applicable unit.

Effective Date for Temporary Incremental Psychiatric per Diem and Administrative Day Rate Increase

All temporary incremental rate increases described in this bulletin will be effective for dates of service from August 1, 2020, through October 31, 2020.

Additional Requirements for Temporary Rate Increases

MassHealth will be posting an amendment to the RFA in the coming weeks. Hospitals must return an executed copy of the upcoming amendment to the RFA, along with any additional documentation required therein, to be eligible for the temporary rate increases described in this bulletin.

To be eligible for the temporary incremental rate increases described in this bulletin, in addition to all other applicable requirements, an applicable hospital must:

- have its applicable units designated as Tier 2 by DMH;
- comply with all DMH requirements, including but not limited to DMH's Infection Control Competencies/Standards;
- meet all COVID-19 reporting metrics, as required by DMH, in a timely manner;
- agree to complete facility-wide COVID-19 testing of all staff and patients in the event DMH determines such testing to be necessary;
- not close a pediatric or geriatric psychiatric unit without prior approval from DMH;
- comply with the DMH No Reject policy, as updated in DMH Bulletin 20-04: COVID-19 Pandemic Guidance;
- submit an executed copy of the forthcoming amendment to the RFA, along with any additional documentation required therein;
- comply with the requirements outlined in this bulletin and the forthcoming amendment to the RFA;
- accept otherwise appropriate patients confirmed to be infected with COVID-19 from outside the applicable hospital;
- actively work with Tier 1 facilities to accept patients currently admitted to those facilities that are confirmed to be infected with COVID-19; and
- partner with the Commonwealth to flex the hospital's capacity to accept patients who are infected with COVID-19, as needed.

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Additional reporting requirements will be outlined in the RFA.

Additional Conditions of Payment and Overpayments

If an applicable hospital is found to be out of compliance with any of the above conditions, or any other term or condition of the RFA, MassHealth may recover payment in accordance with applicable regulations and contracts, and may direct its managed care entities to do the same.

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Questions

If you have any 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, or fax your inquiry to (617) 988-8974.