Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Health and Human Services
Office of Medicaid
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Boston, MA 02111
www.mass.gov/masshealth

MassHealth
Acute Outpatient Hospital Bulletin 15
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TO: Acute Outpatient Hospitals Participating in MassHealth

FROM: Beth Waldman, Medicaid Director

RE: **Admission Hour Required on All Acute Outpatient Hospital Claims**

Background

Transmittal Letter AOH-2, dated November 1996, transmitted item-by-item instructions for filling out the UB 92 claim form. MassHealth instructed providers to enter a two-digit code corresponding to the start time of the member's visit into the admission hour field (Item 18). At the time, Item 18 was not required for claims processing.

MassHealth has determined that outpatient claims can be processed more efficiently when the admission hour is provided on the claim. This includes situations where multiple providers submit claims for the same MassHealth member on the same date of service.

Therefore, effective for dates of service on and after March 31, 2006, the admission hour of the outpatient service (Item 18 on the UB92; Field DTP03 in loop 2300, Admission Date/Hour in the 837I) will be required for any outpatient service claim. Outpatient claims that are submitted without the admission hour information entered as required in the above-referenced billing instructions will be denied with Error Code 655 (invalid or missing time of admission).

Information on Web

This bulletin, as well as all other MassHealth bulletins and transmittal letters, is available on the MassHealth Web site at www.mass.gov/masshealth. Click on "MassHealth Regulations and Other Publications."

Questions

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