



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

Acute Outpatient Hospital Bulletin 44

DATE: November 2025

TO: Acute Outpatient Hospitals Participating in MassHealth

FROM: Mike Levine, Undersecretary for MassHealth

RE: Prior Authorization Requirements for Hospital Outpatient Drugs

Background

MassHealth does not currently require prior authorization (PA) for hospital outpatient drugs billed for MassHealth fee-for-service (FFS), primary care clinician (PCC), and primary care accountable care organization (PCACO) members, unless listed on the Adjudicated Payment Amount per Discharge (APAD) and Adjudicated Payment per Episode of Care (APEC) carve-out drugs list. This policy will continue through December 31, 2025.

Changes Effective January 1, 2026

Effective January 1, 2026, certain drugs billed through the acute hospital outpatient setting for MassHealth FFS, PCC, and PCACO members will require PA as noted on the MassHealth Drug List.

Drugs billed through the emergency, trauma, or urgent acute hospital outpatient setting will continue to not require PA. Drugs billed through the inpatient setting will also continue to not require PA unless on the APAD/APEC carve-out drug list.

For drugs billed through the hospital outpatient setting for MassHealth FFS, PCC, and PCACO members, the PA requests should be submitted to the MassHealth Drug Utilization Review (DUR) Program. For drugs billed through the hospital outpatient setting for members of MassHealth Managed Care Organizations (MCOs) or Accountable Care Partnership Plans (ACPPs), the PA requests should continue to be submitted to the appropriate plan for review and approval before administration.

Please refer to the [MassHealth Drug List](#) for drug specific PA requirements and PA forms.

MassHealth Website

This bulletin is available on the [MassHealth Provider Bulletins](#) web page.

[Sign up](#) to receive email alerts when MassHealth issues new bulletins and transmittal letters.

Questions?

- Call MassHealth at (800) 841-2900, TDD/TTY: 711
- Email us at provider@masshealthquestions.com

 [MassHealth on Facebook](#)  [MassHealth on LinkedIn](#)  [MassHealth on X](#)  [MassHealth on YouTube](#)