



MassHealth
Adult Foster Care Bulletin 25
July 2022

TO: Adult Foster Care Providers and Group Adult Foster Care Providers Participating in MassHealth

FROM: Amanda Cassel Kraft, Assistant Secretary for MassHealth

RE: MassHealth Accreditation Requirements for Newly Enrolled Adult Foster Care and Group Adult Foster Care Providers and Existing GAFC Providers

Introduction

MassHealth incorporated the Group Adult Foster Care (GAFC) program rules into the Adult Foster Care (AFC) program regulations at 130 CMR 408.000: *Adult Foster Care* effective July 1, 2022. This bulletin provides guidance about the accreditation provider eligibility requirement provided at 130 CMR 408.404(A)(10) for AFC providers and at 130 CMR 408.504(A)(9) for GAFC providers. MassHealth requires evidence of accreditation to be submitted to MassHealth or its designee. Accreditation must be obtained by a nationally recognized accreditation organization determined acceptable by MassHealth. Acceptable accreditation organizations include the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA), the Council on Accreditation (COA), and the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF). AFC and GAFC providers must obtain accreditation specific to, or applicable to, their AFC or GAFC program. If an AFC or GAFC provider is accredited by one of the accreditation organizations noted above, but the accreditation is not specific to, or does not apply to, the provider's AFC or GAFC program, the provider must obtain accreditation that is specific to, or applies to, the provider's AFC or GAFC program within the timeframes specified in this bulletin and to comply with the accreditation requirement at 130 CMR 408.404(A)(10) and 130 CMR 408.504(A)(9).

Accreditation Requirements for Newly Enrolled AFC and GAFC Providers

For newly enrolled AFC and GAFC providers, MassHealth will accept an Interim Accreditation through NCQA, a Provisional Accreditation through COA, or a Preliminary Accreditation through CARF. If newly enrolled AFC and GAFC providers are unable to obtain full accreditation within 12 months of their enrollment date, then these newly enrolled AFC and GAFC providers must obtain an Interim/Provisional/Preliminary Accreditation status within 12 months of the date of their AFC or GAFC provider enrollment and upload evidence of this accreditation status to the LTSS Provider Portal www.masshealthltss.com.

Newly enrolled AFC and GAFC providers that obtain an Interim/Provisional/Preliminary Accreditation must obtain full accreditation within 24 months of the date of their AFC/GAFC provider enrollment to remain compliant with the accreditation requirement. Evidence of both the interim and full accreditation must be uploaded to the LTSS Provider Portal within these timeframes.

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Accreditation Requirements for Existing GAFC Providers

For the existing GAFC provider network, providers must obtain full accreditation within 18 months of the date of this bulletin. Evidence of accreditation must be uploaded to the LTSS Provider Portal.

Maintenance of Accreditation; Failure to Submit Required Evidence of Accreditation

Once accreditation is achieved, it must be maintained as long as the AFC or GAFC provider participates in the MassHealth AFC or GAFC program. AFC and GAFC providers who fail to submit the required evidence of accreditation to MassHealth will be subject to sanctions, up to and including termination from participation in the MassHealth AFC or GAFC program.

MassHealth Website

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Questions

If you have any questions about the information in this bulletin, please contact the Long Term Services and Supports (LTSS) Provider Service Center.

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