



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

MassHealth
All Provider Bulletin 293
May 2020

TO: All Providers Participating in MassHealth

FROM: Amanda Cassel Kraft, Acting Medicaid Director

RE: Flexibilities for Substance Use Disorder Treatment Services During COVID-19 State of Emergency

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. In light of the state of emergency declared in the Commonwealth due to the 2019 novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak, MassHealth is introducing additional guidance to all providers.

This bulletin provides guidance regarding flexibilities for facilities that provide 24-hour substance use disorder treatment and MassHealth providers licensed by the Department of Public Health's Bureau of Substance Addiction Services. Unless specifically noted in this bulletin, providers should comply in all respects with [All Provider Bulletin 289](#) and [All Provider Bulletin 291](#), which remain in full force and effect.

As with [All Provider Bulletin 289](#) and [All Provider Bulletin 291](#), this bulletin, and the flexibilities described herein, shall remain effective for the duration of the state of emergency declared via [Executive Order No. 591](#). Upon the expiration of that state of emergency, MassHealth will evaluate the continued need for each of the flexibilities that follow, and make appropriate adjustments, as necessary.

Payment of 24-hour Substance Use Disorder Treatment Services

In accordance with criteria established by the American Society for Addiction Medicine (ASAM), in cases where a member is receiving treatment services in a 24-hour substance use disorder treatment facility, including acute treatment services (ATS), clinical stabilization services (CSS), and residential rehabilitation services (RRS), and is unable to be transitioned or discharged to an appropriate and safe location due to quarantine or other impacts of COVID-19, MassHealth will continue payment until the member can be safely and appropriately discharged or transitioned.

MassHealth
All Provider Bulletin 293
May 2020
Page 2 of 2

Regulatory Flexibilities for MassHealth Providers Licensed by the Department of Public Health's Bureau of Substance Addiction Services

Effective April 7, 2020, the Department of Public Health's (DPH's) Bureau of Substance Addiction Services (BSAS) published "Waiver from Certain Regulatory Requirements" (see <https://www.mass.gov/doc/waiver-from-certain-regulatory-requirements/download>). Pursuant to this waiver, and for as long as the waiver remains in effect, MassHealth providers who are licensed by the BSAS may deliver services in accordance with these flexibilities, notwithstanding any requirements in MassHealth's substance use disorder treatment services regulations at 130 CMR 418.000 to the contrary. All other requirements shall remain in place, unless such requirements have been altered through other guidance and requirements from state and federal entities issued during the emergency period.

MassHealth Website

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

To sign up to receive email alerts when MassHealth issues new bulletins and transmittal letters, send a blank email to join-masshealth-provider-pubs@listserv.state.ma.us. No text in the body or subject line is needed.

Questions

If you have any questions about the information in this bulletin, please contact MassHealth as applicable for your provider type.

Dental Services

Phone: (800) 207-5019; TTY: (800) 466-7566

Long-Term Services and Supports

Phone: (844) 368-5184 (toll free)
Email: support@masshealthltss.com
Portal: MassHealthLTSS.com
Mail: MassHealth LTSS, PO Box 159108, Boston, MA 02215
Fax: (888) 832-3006

All Other Provider Types

Phone: (800) 841-2900; TTY: (800) 497-4648
Email: providersupport@mahealth.net
Fax: (617) 988-8974