

**Office of Medicaid
BOARD OF HEARINGS**

Appellant Name and Address:



Appeal Decision:	DENIED	Appeal Number:	2505306
Decision Date:	6/30/2025	Hearing Date:	05/08/2025
Hearing Officer:	Kenneth Brodzinski		

Appearance for Appellant:



Appearance for MassHealth:

Dionne Wisdom



*The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Health and Human Services
Office of Medicaid
Board of Hearings
100 Hancock Street, Quincy, Massachusetts 02171*

APPEAL DECISION

Appeal Decision:	DENIED	Issue:	Eligibility Start Date
Decision Date:	6/30/2025	Hearing Date:	05/08/2025
MassHealth's Rep.:	Dionne Wisdome	Appellant's Rep.:	Brother
Hearing Location:	Springfield MEC		

Authority

This hearing was conducted pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 118E, Chapter 30A, and the rules and regulations promulgated thereunder.

Jurisdiction

Through notice dated March 18, 2025, MassHealth approved Appellant for MassHealth CarePlus benefits effective March 8, 2025 (see 130 CMR and Exhibit A). Appellant filed this appeal in a timely manner on April 2, 2025 seeking an earlier start date (see 130 CMR 610.015(B) and Exhibit A). Determination of a start date constitutes valid grounds for appeal (see 130 CMR 610.032).

Action Taken by MassHealth

MassHealth approved Appellant for MassHealth CarePlus benefits effective March 8, 2025.

Issue

The appeal issue is whether MassHealth properly applied the controlling regulation(s) to accurate facts when it started Appellant's CarePlus benefits on March 8, 2025.

Summary of Evidence

The MassHealth representative testified that Appellant is an adult male who filed a community application on March 18, 2025. MassHealth approved coverage for CarePlus and set the start date at March 8, 2025, which is ten days prior to the date the application was filed.

The MassHealth representative also explained that Appellant previously had MassHealth benefits which terminated in the first half of 2023 when he failed to file his annual eligibility renewal form.

Appellant was represented by his brother who did not dispute that he filed the MassHealth application for Appellant on March 18, 2025. The brother explained that that when he filed the application, Appellant was hospitalized for a mental health condition. The brother testified that he indicated on the application that he was seeking benefits to go back to cover the expenses related to this hospitalization. The brother testified that Appellant received treatment in the Emergency Room on [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] of 2025 and was admitted on [REDACTED] 2025. Appellant would like coverage backdated to March 3, 2025, to cover the attendant medical bills.

The brother further explained that Appellant could not file the application himself because of his mental health condition, and it took a while for the brother to be made Appellant's authorized representative so that he could file the application.

The hearing officer explained that usually when a patient presents to a hospital with no known health insurance, the hospital will file the MassHealth application on the patient's behalf in order to secure payment for the services being rendered. There was no need to wait for an authorized representative to be appointed; the hospital could have filed on the day that Appellant presented at the Emergency Room.

Findings of Fact

By a preponderance of the evidence, this record supports the following findings:

1. Appellant is an adult male who filed a community MassHealth application on [REDACTED] 2025.
2. MassHealth approved coverage for CarePlus and set the start date at March 8, 2025 which is ten days prior to the date the application was filed.
3. Appellant previously had MassHealth benefits which terminated in the first half of 2023 when he failed to file his annual eligibility renewal form.

4. Appellant has medical bills that predate March 8, 2025.

Analysis and Conclusions of Law

The party appealing an administrative decision bears the burden of demonstrating the decision's invalidity (*Merisme v. Board of Appeals of Motor Vehicle Liability Policies and Bonds*, 27 Mass. App. Ct. 470, 474 (1989)). On this record, Appellant has failed to meet his burden.

Pursuant to MassHealth regulation 130 CMR 505.008(E) the MassHealth CarePlus coverage start date is described at 130 CMR 502.006: *Coverage Dates*. Pursuant to 130 CMR 502.006, unless a person is under the age of 19 or a pregnant female, or an existing coverage level is being changed or the application was renewed after failing to file requested financial verifications, or the application was filed within 90 days of a termination, eligibility will commence ten days prior to the date that the application was filed with MassHealth. None of these exceptions are applicable here.

There was no dispute that Appellant filed his application on March 18, 2025; therefore, MassHealth properly applied the controlling regulations when Appellant's CarePlus benefits commenced ten days prior on March 8, 2025.

On this record, there is no basis in fact and/or law to warrant a finding that MassHealth's action is invalid. The appeal is DENIED.

Order for MassHealth

None.

Notification of Your Right to Appeal to Court

If you disagree with this decision, you have the right to appeal to Court in accordance with Chapter 30A of the Massachusetts General Laws. To appeal, you must file a complaint with the Superior Court for the county where you reside, or Suffolk County Superior Court, within 30 days of your receipt of this decision.

Kenneth Brodzinski
Hearing Officer
Board of Hearings

cc:

[REDACTED]

MassHealth Representative: Dori Mathieu, Springfield MassHealth Enrollment Center, 88 Industry Avenue, Springfield, MA 01104, 413-785-4186