




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

MassHealth
Community Health Center Bulletin 102
May 2020

TO: Community Health Center Providers Participating in MassHealth

FROM: Amanda Cassel Kraft, Acting Medicaid Director 

RE: **Temporary Flexibilities for the Provision of Health Services by Community Health Centers**

Background

In light of the state of emergency declared in the Commonwealth due to the 2019 novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak, MassHealth is temporarily allowing certain additional health care professionals to render billable health services at community health centers (CHCs). Specifically, MassHealth will allow CHCs to bill CPT codes 98966, 98967, and 98968 for services rendered in accordance with those code descriptions by licensed practical nurses, community health workers, and medical assistants employed by the CHC, as further described in this bulletin.

This bulletin shall remain effective for the duration of the state of emergency declared via [Executive Order No. 591](#).

Qualified Non-Physician Health Care Professionals

Through [All Provider Bulletin 289](#) and accompanying transmittal letters, MassHealth implemented flexibilities and added additional billing codes to allow providers, including CHCs, to provide clinically appropriate, medically necessary services via telehealth. The additional codes made available by such all provider bulletin included CPT codes 98966, 98967, and 98968, which apply to telephonic assessment and management services provided, in accordance with the code descriptions, by “qualified non-physician health care professionals.”

For dates of service beginning March 12, 2020, and notwithstanding any provision to the contrary in 130 CMR 405.00: *Community Health Center Services* or 101 CMR 304.00 *Rates for Community Health Centers*, MassHealth will temporarily consider licensed practical nurses, community health workers, and medical assistants to be “qualified non-physician health care professionals” for the limited purpose of providing CHC services under CPT codes 98966, 98967, and 98968.

When licensed practical nurses, community health workers, or medical assistants provide the services described in CPT codes 98966, 98967, or 98968, they must do so with appropriate supervision by the supervising licensed clinician employed by the CHC in order for such services to be payable by MassHealth.

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Furthermore, the services rendered by a qualified non-physician health care professional in accordance with CPT codes 98966, 98967, and 98968 must be appropriate to the qualified non-physician health care professional's level of skill or experience, as determined and approved by their supervising clinician, and in accordance with all other applicable provisions in 130 CMR 405.000: *Community Health Center Services*, 130 CMR 450.000: *Administrative and Billing Services*, and 101 CMR 304:00: *Rates for Community Health Centers* in order to be payable by MassHealth.

This CHC provider bulletin does not authorize licensed practical nurses, community health workers, or medical assistants to provide "individual medical visits" defined under 130 CMR 405.402: *Definitions*. Such visits may only be provided by physicians, physician assistants, certified nurse practitioners, clinical nurse specialists, or registered nurses, in accordance with that definition.

MassHealth Website

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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 the MassHealth Customer Service Center at (800) 841-2900, email your inquiry to providersupport@mahealth.net, or fax your inquiry to (617) 988-8974.