



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

MassHealth
Community Health Center Bulletin 112
July 2021

TO: Community Health Center Providers Participating in MassHealth

FROM: Amanda Cassel Kraft, Acting Assistant Secretary for MassHealth

RE: **Community Health Centers Providing Vaccine Administration Services**

Background

Community Health Centers (CHCs) are an authorized provider who may bill MassHealth for COVID-19 vaccine administration, in accordance with [MassHealth All Provider Bulletins 307](#) (January 2021) and [312](#) (March 2021). This bulletin is intended to align with the requirements of those bulletins and to provide additional information for CHC providers.

As part of its ongoing response to the COVID-19 pandemic, and in order to increase rates of COVID-19 vaccination for MassHealth members, MassHealth is issuing this guidance to prevent the spread of the virus and ensure efficient provision of health care services at CHCs. Specifically, this bulletin provides updated guidance regarding billing for vaccines, vaccine administration, and vaccine counseling services, collectively referred to here as “vaccine services,” provided to MassHealth members by CHCs.

This bulletin applies to all CHCs participating in the MassHealth program for dates of service beginning December 11, 2020, except where explicitly stated otherwise.

Vaccine and Vaccine Administration Services Provided by CHCs

CHCs are providing essential services to MassHealth members, including vaccine services. CHCs may bill the appropriate vaccine and vaccine administration codes as described in MassHealth All Provider Bulletin 307 and MassHealth All Provider Bulletin 312. Further, for dates of service beginning July 26, 2021, CHCs may bill for vaccine counseling using the codes designated in All Provider Bulletin 321. However, in the event that vaccine services are provided as part of an individual medical visit, as defined in 130 CMR 405.402: *Definitions*, CHCs may bill MassHealth for the individual medical visit **or** one or more vaccine services, but cannot bill for both the individual medical visit and vaccine services provided in the same visit. For tracking purposes, CHCs must also bill the appropriate no-cost vaccine code (91300 SL, 91301 SL, or 91303 SL) for every vaccine administered, regardless of whether the CHC is billing using the vaccine administration code or the individual medical visit code.

The CHC provider is responsible for ensuring that the services provided are billed appropriately and according to MassHealth regulations, including but not limited to 130 CMR 405.000: *Community Health Center Services* and 101 CMR 304.00: *Rates for Community Health Centers*. CHCs that bill for an individual medical visit for visits in which vaccine services are provided must ensure that the visit amounts to an individual medical visit as defined under 130 CMR 405.402: *Definitions*.

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For example, a visit involving a meeting between a member and a physician, nurse practitioner, physician assistant, or registered nurse at the CHC and including COVID-19 vaccine education/counseling, administration of the vaccine, and monitoring for adverse reactions to the vaccine in a single visit may be billed as an individual medical visit using code T1015.

Temporarily Licensed CHC Sites

Temporarily licensed CHC sites that have been authorized or approved for operation by the Department of Public Health (DPH) are satellite sites that are considered part of the CHC, in accordance with 130 CMR 405.406(A): *Licensing*. Temporary sites meeting the requirements described in the DPH guidance, [Clinic Space for COVID-19 Testing, Treatment and Vaccine Administration](#) or any subsequent or superseding guidance, are considered authorized or approved for COVID-19 testing, treatment, and vaccine administration. DPH may, at its discretion, provide additional approvals for additional services at temporary sites in addition to what is authorized under the guidance. For as long as the DPH authorization or approval for a temporary site is valid, CHCs may provide the services that have been authorized or approved by DPH at such temporary sites and may bill MassHealth for those services.

CHCs should notify Priscilla Portis, Director of FFS Provider Networks, via email at priscilla.portis@mass.gov that they are authorized or have been approved to operate such a temporary site, and should include the types of services that may be provided at the temporary site in the email.

Additionally, a CHC may bill for services provided by the CHC at the CHC's temporary site(s) or at the CHC's permanent location(s), even if the services provided are rendered or supported by Massachusetts National Guard personnel or other state staffing assistance. The CHC must provide appropriate oversight and supervision of all personnel providing services at the CHC or its temporary site(s), including any Massachusetts National Guard personnel or other supportive personnel provided by the state.

MassHealth Website

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

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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.