TO: Continuous Skilled Nursing Agencies Participating in MassHealth

FROM: Mike Levine, Assistant Secretary for MassHealth

RE: COVID-19 Flexibilities after the End of the Federal Public Health Emergency - Amended

Background


Due to the decision by the Secretary to end the FPHE, MassHealth issued Continuous Skilled Nursing (CSN) Agency Bulletin 10, effective May 12, 2023. This bulletin replaces and supersedes CSN Agency Bulletin 10 by clarifying the providers qualified to order services and establish a plan of care.

Introduction

This bulletin communicates CSN provider requirements that were suspended during the FPHE and that will be enforced after the FPHE ends. This bulletin also communicates changes in requirements implemented during the FPHE that will continue past the end of the FPHE.

This bulletin applies to members receiving CSN services on a fee-for-service basis, including members enrolled in the Primary Care Clinician (PCC) Plan who are receiving MassHealth-covered CSN services.

Flexibilities Ended May 11, 2023

Comprehensive Needs Assessment Conducted via Telehealth

Effective May 12, 2023, MassHealth ended this flexibility and members will receive in-person comprehensive needs assessments. This applies to members seeking Community Case Management (CCM) services and for members requiring reevaluation for CCM services.
MassHealth Telehealth Policy for CSN Services

Effective May 12, 2023, this flexibility allowing for the use of telehealth for consultative CSN services ended. CSN services should continue to be delivered according to 130 CMR 438.000.

Flexibilities Continuing on May 12, 2023

Timeframe to Get Signatures on Plans of Care

Following the end of the FPHE, this flexibility will continue under the authority of this bulletin until MassHealth has updated CSN agency provider regulations at 130 CMR 438.000 to codify these allowances. Providers must get a member’s signed plan of care either before the first claims submission or within 90 days from the first claims submission.

Face-to-Face Encounters via Telehealth

Following the end of the FPHE, MassHealth continues to allow telehealth services for face-to-face visits through December 31, 2024.

Providers Qualified to Order Services and Establish a Plan of Care

Following the end of the FPHE, MassHealth is modifying the practitioners who may direct, order, and certify CSN services provided by CSN Agency providers. As long as they have a collaborative practice agreement with a physician, nurse practitioners, clinical nurse specialists, and physician assistants may:

- direct CSN services provided by a CSN Agency;
- order CSN services;
- establish and periodically review a member’s plan of care for CSN services (e.g., sign the plan of care); and
- certify and recertify the member’s plan of care.

MassHealth Website

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Questions

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