



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Health and Human Services
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CORRECTED NOTICE OF PROPOSED AGENCY ACTION

SUBJECT: MassHealth: Home Health Fee-for-Service Prior Authorization Requirements for CarePlus Members

AGENCY: Massachusetts Executive Office of Health and Human Services

Pursuant to 42 C.F.R. 440.305(d), the Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS) will hold a public comment period until March 30, 2016, relative to the addition of prior authorization requirements for home health aide services for MassHealth members who have the CarePlus coverage type and are not enrolled in a MassHealth MCO (i.e. CarePlus members that receive Home Health Services fee-for-service).

Currently prior authorization is required for CarePlus members not enrolled in a MassHealth MCO for skilled nursing services, which CarePlus members receive on a limited basis when such services follow, and are related to, an overnight hospital or skilled nursing facility stay, as well as home health therapist services (occupational therapy, physical therapy) following the first 20 therapist visits and for speech therapist services following the first 35 speech therapist visits.

The proposed changes would require prior authorization for home health aide services when provided pursuant to skilled nursing services or provided pursuant to a need for home health therapy services. The implementation of prior authorization requirements is being made to ensure that the provision of these services is medically necessary and appropriate for the member's clinical needs.

To implement this change, EOHHS will update its regulations at 130 CMR 403 and also intends to file a state plan amendment to its Alternative Benefits state plan (CarePlus), which provides the Commonwealth with the authority to cover populations and benefits in addition to what is traditionally covered under the Medicaid program. This change will have no impact on MassHealth's provision of Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment (EPSDT) services, because only members age 21 and older are enrolled in CarePlus. EOHHS has followed the tribal consultation noticing process established under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 and set forth in its approved state plan.

Individuals may submit written comments by e-mailing ehs-regulations@state.ma.us. Please submit electronic comments as an attached Word document or as text within the body of the e-mail with the phrase "Home Health Prior Authorization for CarePlus Members" in the subject line. All submissions must include the sender's full name and address. Individuals who are unable to submit comments by e-mail should mail written comments to EOHHS, c/o Debby Briggs, 100 Hancock Street, 6th Floor,



Quincy, MA 02171. To be considered, written comments must be submitted by 5:00 p.m. on **March 30, 2016**.