2025 Massachusetts **Schedule HC** Health Care Special Section on Minimum Creditable Coverage

What is "Minimum Creditable Coverage" (MCC)?

It's the minimum level of health insurance benefits that adult tax filers need to be considered insured and avoid tax penalties in Massachusetts.

Note: MCC is not the same as Minimum Essential Coverage, which is the type of coverage adult tax filers and their dependents need in order to be considered insured by the federal government. Visit irs.gov for more information about the federal requirement to have insurance coverage.

How do I know if my plan met MCC?

Massachusetts-licensed health insurance companies must put an MCC compliance notice on their health plans indicating whether they meet MCC requirements. Most do meet the MCC standards. If you received a Form MA 1099-HC from your insurer, that form will indicate whether your insurance met MCC requirements. For a list of plans that automatically meet MCC, please refer to the plans listed on this page.

What if I did not receive a Form MA 1099-HC from my insurer?

You can call your insurer or your employer's human resources department or benefits administrator for help, if you get health coverage through your job. If your insurer or your employer is unable to assist you, please refer to the "Benefits Required Under MCC" section on this page to see if your policy meets these requirements. If your plan meets all of the requirements, you may certify in line 3 of the Schedule HC that you were enrolled in a plan that met the MCC requirements during that time period.

What if my plan did not meet MCC for all of 2025?

If you were enrolled in a plan that did not meet the MCC requirements for all of 2025, you must fill in the "No MCC/None" oval in line 3 of the Schedule HC and follow the instructions on the Schedule HC. You will not be subject to a penalty if it is determined that you did not have access to affordable insurance that met MCC. If you had access to affordable insurance that met MCC but did not purchase it, you are subject to a penalty. However, if you are subject to a penalty, you may appeal and claim that the penalty should not apply to you. For more information about the grounds and procedure for appeals, go to page HC-4. No penalty will be imposed pending the outcome of your appeal.

What if I was enrolled in an MCC plan for only part of the year?

If you were enrolled in an MCC plan for only part of the year, you should fill in the "Part-Year MCC" oval in line 3 of the Schedule HC and go to line 4.

In line 4, only provide the health insurance information for the MCC plan(s) you were enrolled in. Do not provide health insurance information in line 4 for a plan that did not meet the MCC standards.

Benefits Required Under MCC

For most plans, the 2025 "Minimum Creditable Coverage" standards include:

- Coverage for a comprehensive set of services (for example: doctor visits, hospital admissions, day surgery, emergency services, mental health and substance abuse, and prescription drug coverage);
- · Doctor visits for preventive care, without cost-sharing;
- A cap on annual deductibles of \$2,950 for an individual and \$5,900 for a family;
- For plans with up-front deductibles or co-insurance on core services, an annual maximum on out-of-pocket spending of no more than \$9,200 for an individual and \$18,400 for a family;
- No caps on total benefits for a particular illness or for a single year;
- No policy that covers only a fixed dollar amount per day or stay in the hospital, with the patient responsible for all other charges;
- For policies that have a separate prescription drug deductible, it cannot exceed \$360 for an individual or \$720 for a family;
- All services must be provided to all of those covered (for example, a plan that covers dependents must extend maternity services to them); and
- · No cap on prescription drug benefits.

Other ways of meeting MCC:

You automatically meet MCC if you are enrolled in:

- · Medicare Part A or B;
- Any Qualified Health Plan purchased through the Massachusetts Health Connector or directly through a carrier, including ConnectorCare plans and catastrophic plans;
- MassHealth, except MassHealth Limited;
- A qualified Student Health Insurance Plan (SHIP) offered in Massachusetts or another state;
- Eligibility for services through a tribal organization or the Indian Health Service;
- · TRICARE;
- The U.S. Veterans Administration Health System;
- A health insurance plan offered by the federal government to federal employees or retirees;
- Peace Corps, VISTA or AmeriCorps or National Civilian Community Corps coverage.

Note: A federally-qualified High Deductible Health Plan (HDHP) offered with a Health Savings Account (HSA) or Health Reimbursement Arrangement (HRA) may meet MCC if it complies with most of the benefits described above.

For more information on MCC requirements, visit the Health Connector's website at MAhealthconnector.org.

Schedule HC Instructions TO CHANGE.

Health Care Information

The Massachusetts health care reform law requires most residents 18 and over with access to affordable health insurance to obtain it. More information about the health care reform law and how to purchase affordable health insurance is available at the Commonwealth Health Insurance Connector Authority's website at MAhealthconnector.org.

Note: The Affordable Care Act requires most individuals nationally with access to affordable health insurance to obtain it. This requirement is separate from the Massachusetts reform law requirements. Visit <u>irs.gov</u> for more information on the federal requirement.

Special Circumstances During 2025

Read this section if, during 2025, you turned 18, moved into or out of Massachusetts or if you are filing a tax return on behalf of a deceased taxpayer to determine the period of time that the mandate to have health insurance applied to you.

Note: Schedule HC must be completed and filed if you fall into a "special circumstances" category. Turning 18. If you turned 18 during 2025, the man date to obtain and maintain health insurance applies to you beginning on the first day of the third month following the month of your birthday. For example, if your birthday is June 15, the mandate applies on September 1.

Part-year residents. If you moved into Massachusetts during 2025, the mandate to obtain and maintain health insurance applies to you beginning on the first day of third month following the month you became a resident of Massachusetts. For example, if you moved into Massachusetts on May 14, the mandate applies on August 1.

If you moved out of Massachusetts during 2025, the requirement to obtain and maintain health insurance applies to you up until the last day of the last full month you were a resident. For example, if you moved out of Massachusetts on July 10, the mandate applies up to June 30. And, if you moved out of Massachusetts on September 30, the mandate applies up to September 30.

Note: Part-year residents are not required to file Schedule HC if they were residents of Massachusetts for less than three full months.

Deceased taxpayer. If a taxpayer dies during 2025, the mandate to obtain and maintain health insurance applies to the deceased taxpayer up until the last day of the last full month the taxpayer was alive. For example, if a taxpayer died on August 4, the mandate applies up to July 31.

Lines 1a and 1b. Date of Birth

Enter your date of birth and the date of birth for your spouse (if married filing jointly).

Taxpayers turning 18 during 2025. Taxpayers with a date of birth on or after October 1, 2007 should only complete line 1 of Schedule HC because they are not subject to a penalty.

Note: Failure to enter this information will delay the processing of your return.

Line 1c. Family Size

Enter your family size, including yourself, your spouse (if living in the same household at any point during the year) and any dependents as claimed on Form 1, line 2b or Form 1-NR/PY, line 4b. If married filing separately and living in the same household, at any point during the year, be sure to include in line 1c any dependents claimed on your tax return and any dependents claimed by your spouse on your spouse's tax return.

Note: Failure to enter this information will delay the processing of your return.

Line 2. Federal Adjusted Gross Income

Enter your federal adjusted gross income (from U.S. Form 1040, line 11a). If married filing separately and living in the same household, at any point during the year, each spouse must combine their income figures from their separate U.S. returns when completing this section. If you did not have a requirement to file a U.S. return, you must enter 0 in this section.

Note: Failure to enter this information will delay the processing of your return.

Line 3. Your Health Insurance Status in 2025

If you had health insurance in 2025, you must first determine if the insurance you had met the Minimum Creditable Coverage requirements. Your Form MA 1099-HC sent to you by your insurer will give you this information. Almost all state and government sponsored insurance plans, such as MassHealth, ConnectorCare and other Health Connector plans, Medicare, and health coverage for U.S. Military, including Veterans Administration and Tri-Care, meet these requirements.

Important information: The Health Safety Net is not health insurance, and thus it does not meet MCC requirements. If this is the only way in which your health care needs were paid for in 2025, you must fill in the No MCC/None oval in line 3 and go to line 6.

If you did not receive Form MA 1099-HC from your insurer, see the special section on MCC requirements. Once you have determined whether your coverage met the MCC requirements in 2025, enter the period of time that you were covered by the plan(s).

Explanation of time periods for line 3 of Schedule HC

- ▶ Full-year MCC. Fill in this oval if you had health insurance that met MCC requirements for the entire year of 2025 and go to line 4.
- ▶ Part-year MCC. Fill in this oval if you had health insurance that met MCC requirements for only part of 2025 and go to line 4. This means for the other parts of 2025, you had no health insurance at all, health insurance that did not meet MCC requirements or a combination of both.
- ▶ No MCC/None. Fill in this oval if you did not, at any point in 2025, have health insurance that met MCC requirements. For example, either you did not have any health insurance at all in 2025, or you only had health insurance that did not meet MCC requirements and then go to line 6.

If married filing jointly, you must respond for yourself and your spouse. If you (or your spouse, if married filing jointly) had Full-Year or Part-Year MCC, go to line 4. If you (or your spouse, if married filing jointly) had No MCC/None, go to line 6. If married filing jointly, and only one spouse had Full-Year or Part-Year MCC, you must complete line 4 with information regarding the spouse who had Full-Year or Part-Year MCC, and must go to line 6 for the spouse who had No MCC/None. If married filing separately, you only have to respond for yourself, not your spouse.

Note: Failure to enter this information will delay the processing of your return.

Special Circumstances — Important Information: If, during 2025, you turned 18, moved into or out of Massachusetts or if you are filing a tax return on behalf of a deceased taxpayer, you must first determine the period of time that the mandate applied to you. See the Special Circumstances section on this page for additional information. If you had health insurance that met the Minimum Creditable Coverage requirements for the entire period that the mandate applied to you. fill in the Full-Year MCC oval in line 3. If you met the requirements for only part of the time that the mandate applied to you, fill in the Part-Year MCC oval. If you had no insurance or insurance that did not meet the MCC requirements for the period of time that the mandate applied to you, fill in the ${\bf No}$ MCC/None oval.

DRAFT AS OF NOVEMBER 21, 2025. SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

Line 4. Your Health Insurance Plan Information

If you indicated in line 3 that you were enrolled in a health insurance plan that met the Minimum Creditable Coverage requirements for all or part of 2025, you must now fill in the oval that matches your plan. If you had more than one plan in 2025, fill in all of the ovals that apply for you and your spouse, if married filing jointly, and follow the instructions.

Line 4a. If you (and/or your spouse if married filing jointly) were enrolled in private health insurance, including ConnectorCare, fill in the oval(s) in line 4a and complete line 4f (for you) and/or 4g (your spouse) using Form(s) MA 1099-HC. This form will be issued to you by your health insurance carrier or administrator, no later than January 31, 2026.

Note: If you received Form(s) MA 1099-HC, be sure to attach to Schedule HC. If you did not receive Form(s) MA 1099-HC, fill in the oval(s) in lines 4f (for you) and/or 4g (your spouse), and enter the name of your insurance carrier or administrator and your subscriber number in line 4f and/or 4g and go to line 5. This information should be on your insurance card. If you do not know this information, contact your insurer or your Human Resources Department if your insurance is through your employer.

Note: Generally, employees or retirees of the federal, state or local governments have private health insurance and should fill in the oval(s) in line 4a and complete line 4f (for you) and/or line 4g (your spouse) and then go to line 5.

Note: If you (and/or your spouse if married filing jointly) obtained MCC through a health arrangement provided by an established religious organization comprised of individuals with sincerely held religious beliefs, fill in the oval for line 4a and complete line 4f (for you) and/or line 4g (for your spouse).

If you and your spouse were enrolled in the same health insurance, you must complete both line 4f (for you) and 4g (your spouse).

Line 4b. If you (and/or your spouse if married filing jointly) were enrolled in MassHealth fill in the Yes oval(s) in line 4b and go to line 5.

Line 4c. If you (and/or your spouse if married filing jointly) were enrolled in Medicare (including a replacement or supplemental plan), fill in the oval(s) in line 4c and then go to line 5.

Note: Fill in the Medicare oval(s) even if you have a supplemental or replacement plan that you may have purchased on your own.

Line 4d. If you (and/or your spouse if married filing jointly) were enrolled in a U.S. Military plan (including Veterans Administration and Tri-Care), fill in the oval(s) in line 4d and then go to line 5.

Line 4e. If you (and/or your spouse if married filing jointly) were enrolled in Other government health coverage fill in the oval(s) in line 4e and complete line 4f (for you) and/or 4g (your spouse) by entering the program name(s) only.

"Other government health coverage" includes comprehensive government-subsidized plans such as care provided at a correctional facility or by an Indian Health Service provider or tribally-operated facility. Taxpayers who receive MassHealth should fill in the oval on line 4b. Taxpayers who receive ConnectorCare should fill in the oval on line 4a. Taxpayers who receive health care through the Health Safety Net (formerly known as the Uncompensated Care Pool) should not fill in any oval in line 4 because the Health Safety Net is not health insurance, and thus it does not meet Minimum Creditable Coverage requirements.

Lines 4f and 4g. Complete only if you filled in oval(s) in line(s) 4a or 4e. Enter information in lines 4f and 4g on up to two insurance carriers each, if you (and/or your spouse if married filing jointly) were covered by multiple insurers in 2025.

Note: If you filled in the oval(s) in line 4e, only enter the name of the program or organization. If you were eligible for services through the Indian Health Service or a tribal organization, enter "Indian Health" on this line. After completing lines 4f and 4g, go to line 5.

If you (and/or your spouse if married filing jointly) had health insurance from more than two in surance carriers, fill out Schedule HC-CS, Health Care Continuation Sheet. If you file Schedule HC-CS, report your two most recent insurance carriers first on Schedule HC and use Schedule HC-CS to report the additional insurance carriers for yourself (and/or your spouse if married filing filing jointly). Schedule HC-CS is available on DOR's website at mass.gov/dor.

Line 5. Instructions After Completing Lines 3 and 4

If your health insurance met the Minimum Creditable Coverage requirements for all of 2025, you are not subject to a penalty. Skip the remainder of this schedule and continue completing your tax return. If you were enrolled in Medicare, U.S. Military (including Veterans Administration and Tri-Care), or other government insurance, not including MassHealth, at any point during 2025, you are not subject to a penalty. Skip the remainder of this schedule and continue completing your tax

return. Be sure to enclose page 1 of Schedule HC with your return.

If you had health insurance that met the MCC requirements for only part of the year in 2025 or if you had no insurance in 2025, go to line 6.

Receive Free Help in Finding Health Insurance Coverage

The Massachusetts Health Connector is a statebased insurance marketplace where you can find high-quality, affordable health coverage. By checking this box, you authorize DOR to share basic information from your tax return and attached schedules with the Health Connector about your household, such as names, ages, contact information, and adjusted gross income, as well as the information in the Schedule HC about any health coverage you may have had last year. If you are married filing jointly, both spouses must check the box for the Health Connector to receive all of your information. The Health Connector will use this information to reach out to you with information about low- or no-cost coverage you may qualify for through the Health Connector or Mass-Health, the state's Medicaid and CHIP agency, as well as places you can receive free, in-person help near where you live.

Line 6. Federal Poverty Level

Individuals with income at or below 150% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) are not subject to a penalty for failure to purchase health insurance. Complete the Line 6, Federal Poverty Worksheet to determine if your income in 2025 was at or below 150% of the Federal Poverty Level.

Note for MassHealth enrollees: If you did not receive a Form MA 1099-HC and you answered No to line 6, please call Mass Health at 1-866-682-6745 for a copy. Taxpayers who receive ConnectorCare should call their health plan for a copy of Form MA 1099-HC. If you answered Yes to line 6, you do not need to complete this section and you do not need a Form MA 1099-HC. If you answered Yes to line 6, you are not subject to a penalty. Skip the remainder of Schedule HC and continue completing your return. Be sure to enclose pages 1 and 2 of Schedule HC with your return.

Line 7. Months Covered by Minimum Creditable Coverage Health Insurance

Complete this section only if you (and/or your spouse if married filing jointly) were enrolled in a health insurance plan(s) that met Minimum Creditable Coverage requirements for part, but not all, of 2025. You are considered to have coverage for part of 2025 if you had coverage for at least 1 but less than 12 months.

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If you were enrolled in a private health insurance plan that met MCC requirements (such as coverage provided by your employer or purchased on your own) or government-sponsored health insurance (such as MassHealth), fill in the oval(s) for the months you were covered in 2025, using the information from Form(s) MA 1099-HC.

If you did not receive a Form MA 1099-HC from your insurer, fill in the oval(s) for each month in which you had coverage that met MCC requirements for 15 days or more. If you had coverage in any month for 14 days or less, you must leave the oval(s) blank.

If you have four or more consecutive months either with no insurance or insurance that did not meet MCC requirements (four or more blank ovals in a row), go to line 8a. Otherwise, you are not subject to a penalty. Skip the remainder of Schedule HC and continue completing your return. Be sure to enclose pages 1 and 2 of Schedule HC with your return.

If you are filing a joint return and one spouse has three or fewer blank ovals in a row, and the other spouse has four or more blank ovals in a row, the spouse with three or fewer blank ovals in a row is not subject to a penalty and should skip the remainder of Schedule HC. The spouse with four or more blank ovals in a row must go to line 8a.

Special Circumstances During 2025

Note: Schedule HC must be completed and filed even if you fall into a "Special Circumstances" category. Also, do not count the months that the mandate did not apply when determining if you have four or more consecutive months without health insurance.

Turning 18. If you turned 18 during 2025, the mandate to maintain and obtain health insurance applies to you beginning on the first day of the third month following the month of your birthday. For example, if your birthday is June 15, the mandate applies on September 1. In this example, do not count the months of January through August be cause the mandate did not apply.

Part-year residents. If you moved into Massachusetts during 2025, the mandate to obtain and maintain health insurance applies to you beginning on the first day of the third month following the month you became domiciled in (a resident of) Massachusetts. For example, if you moved into Massachusetts on May 14, the mandate applies on August 1. In this example, do not count the months of January through July because the mandate did not apply.

If you moved out of Massachusetts during 2025, the mandate to obtain and maintain health insurance applies to you up until the last day of the last full month you were a resident. For example, if you moved out of Massachusetts on July 10, the mandate applies up to June 30. In this example, do not count the months of July through December because the mandate did not apply.

Deceased taxpayer. If a taxpayer died during 2025, the mandate to obtain and maintain health insurance applies to the deceased taxpayer up until the last day of the last full month the taxpayer was alive. For example, if a taxpayer died on August 4, the mandate applies up to July 31. In this example, do not count the months of August through December because the mandate did not apply.

Line 8. Religious Exemption

Line 8a. A religious exemption is available for any one who has a sincere religious belief that is the basis of refusal to obtain and maintain health insurance coverage. Fill in the Yes oval(s) if you are claiming a religious exemption from the requirement to purchase health insurance based on your sincerely held religious beliefs that cause you to object to substantially all forms of treatment covered by health insurance.

If you (and your spouse if married filing jointly) answer **Yes** to line 8a, go to line 8b.

If you (and your spouse if married filing jointly) answer **No** to line 8a, go to line 9.

If you are filing a joint return and one spouse answers **No** to line 8a but the other spouse answers **Yes**, the spouse who answered **Yes** must go to line 8b and the spouse who answered **No** must go to line 9.

Line 8b. If you are claiming a religious exemption but you received medical health care during tax year 2025, such as treatment during an emergency room visit, you may be subject to a penalty if it is determined that you could have afforded health insurance.

Medical health care excludes certain treatments such as preventative dental care, certain eye examinations and vaccinations. It also excludes a physical examination when required by a third party, such as a prospective employer. For additional information, see Department of Revenue regulation 830 CMR 111M.2.1, Health Insurance Individual Mandate; Personal Income Tax Return Requirements, available on the department's website at mass.gov/dor.

If you (and your spouse if married filing jointly) answer **Yes** on line 8a and **No** on line 8b, the penalty does not apply to you. Skip the remainder of Schedule HC and continue completing your tax return. Be sure to enclose pages 1 and 2 of Schedule HC with your return.

If you (and your spouse if married filing jointly) answered **Yes** on both lines 8a and 8b, go to line 9.

If you are filing a joint return and one spouse answers **No** to line 8b but the other spouse answers **Yes** to line 8b, the spouse who answered **No** is not subject to a penalty and should skip the remainder of Schedule HC. The spouse who answered **Yes** must go to line 9.

Line 9. Certificate of Exemption

The Massachusetts Health Connector provided certificates of exemption to qualified taxpayers who applied in 2025.

▶ If you have a "Certificate of Exemption" issued by the Massachusetts Health Connector for the 2025 tax year, a penalty does not apply to you. Fill in the Yes oval(s) in line 9 of Schedule HC and enter the certificate number in the space provided. Note: Only enter the numbers of the Certificate of Exemption. Do not enter letters, spaces or dashes.

For example, if the certificate number on your Certificate of Exemption is AMLI123456-78, enter in the spaces provided 12345678. If married filing jointly and both spouses have a certificate, each spouse must enter their certificate number in the space provided. Skip the remainder of Schedule HC and continue completing your tax return. Be sure to enclose pages 1 and 2 of Schedule HC with your return.

- If you answered No to line 9, go to line 10.
- ▶ If you are filing a joint return and one spouse answers **Yes** to line 9 but the other spouse answers **No** to line 9, the spouse who answered **Yes** must enter the certificate number and skip the remainder of Schedule HC and the spouse who answered **No** must go to line 10.

For more information about Certificates of Exemption, visit the Massachusetts Health Connector's website at MAhealthconnector.org.

Note: If you received a Certificate of Exemption from the federal shared responsibility requirement in 2025, issued by the Federal Health Insurance Marketplace, do not enter that information in line 9.

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Lines 10, 11 and 12. Affordability As Determined By State Guidelines

Taxpayers who had four or more consecutive months without health insurance that met Minimum Creditable Coverage in 2025 may be subject to a penalty if they had access to affordable health insurance that met MCC requirements.

If you answered Yes in line 6 of Schedule HC indicating that your income was at or below 150% of the Federal Poverty Level, or

If you had three or fewer blank ovals in a row as shown in line 7,

you are not subject to a penalty and should skip the remainder of Schedule HC and continue completing your tax return. Be sure to enclose pages 1 and 2 of Schedule HC with your return.

You must complete the Schedule HC Worksheets for Lines 10, 11 and 12 if you were uninsured for all of 2025 or if you had four or more consecutive months without health insurance (four or more blank ovals in a row in the Months Covered by Health Insurance That Met Minimum Creditable Coverage section of line 7).

To complete these worksheets, you will need to have your completed 2025 U.S. Form 1040. You also will need to know how much it would have cost you to enroll in any health insurance plan offered by an employer in 2025. An employer's Human Resources Department should be able to provide this amount to you. Be sure to enclose pages 1 to 3 of Schedule HC with your return.

Filing an Appeal

If you are subject to a state penalty for not obtaining health insurance in 2025, you have the right to appeal. The appeal will be heard by the Massachusetts Health Connector, an independent state body. **Note:** There is no longer a federal penalty. Visit <u>irs.gov</u> for more information on federal requirements.

In your appeal, you may claim that the penalty should not apply to you. You may claim that you could not afford insurance in 2025 because you experienced a hardship. To establish a hardship, you must be able to show that, during 2025:

a. You were homeless, more than 30 days in arrears in rent or mortgage payments, or received an eviction or foreclosure notice;

- **b.** You received a shut-off notice, were shut off, or were refused the delivery of essential utilities (gas, electric, oil, water, or telephone);
- **c.** You incurred a significant, unexpected increase in essential expenses resulting directly from the consequences of: (i) domestic violence; (ii) the death of a spouse, family member, or partner with primary responsibility for child care, where that spouse, family member, or partner shared household expenses with you; (iii) the sudden responsibility for providing full care for yourself, an aging parent or other family member, including a major, extended illness of a child that required a working parent to hire a full-time caretaker for the child; or (iv) a fire, flood, natural disaster, or other unexpected natural or human-caused event causing substantial household or personal damage for the individual filing the appeal.
- **d.** Your financial circumstances were such that the expense of purchasing health insurance would have caused you to experience a serious deprivation of food, shelter, clothing or other necessities.
- **e.** Your family size was so large that reliance on the affordability schedule (see Table 3: Affordability) to determine how much you could afford to pay for health insurance is inequitable.
- **f.** During 2025 you purchased health insurance that did not meet Minimum Creditable Coverage requirements, but which was close to or substantially met those requirements, and you felt that your circumstances prevented you from buying other insurance that met the requirements.
- **g.** During 2025 you purchased health insurance that did not meet Minimum Creditable Coverage requirements because that is all that your employer offered, and you felt that your circumstances prevented you from buying other insurance that met the requirements.

You may also base your appeal on other circumstances, such as the application of the affordability tables in Schedule HC to you is inequitable (for example, due to fluctuations in income or other changes in life circumstances that affect financial status during the year), you were unable to obtain government-subsidized insurance despite your income, including not applying for or enrolling in MassHealth or ConnectorCare because of concerns about its potential negative impact under "public charge" immigration tests, or residency outside of Massachusetts during your uninsured period.

How to Appeal

To appeal, you must fill in the oval for you (and your spouse, if applicable) on Schedule HC, Appeals Section that authorizes DOR to share information in your tax return, including Schedule HC, with the Massachusetts Health Connector, the independent state body that will hear the appeal. No

penalty will be assessed by DOR pending the outcome of your appeal. Be sure to enclose pages 1 to 3 of Schedule HC with your return.

Note: If you are filing an appeal, make sure you have calculated the penalty amount that you are appealing, but do not assess yourself or enter a penalty amount on your income tax return.

If you (and/or your spouse, if married filing jointly) fill in that oval on your return, you will receive a follow-up letter from the Massachusetts Health Connector asking you to state your grounds for appeal in writing, and submit supporting documentation. Failure to respond to that form within the time specified will lead to dismissal of your appeal. Also, you (and/or your spouse, if married filing jointly) are allowed only one opportunity to appeal. The Massachusetts Health Connector will then review the information you provided. You may be required to participate in a hearing on your case. You will be required to state your claims under pains and penalties of perjury.

Note: Do not include any hardship documentation with your original return. You will be required to submit supporting hardship documentation at a later date during the appeal process.

Schedule HC Worksheets and Tables

Following are the necessary worksheets you may need to complete your 2025 Schedule HC. Retain these worksheets for your records. Do not submit these with your tax return.

Schedule HC Worksheet for Line 6: Federal Poverty Level

1.	Enter your federal adjusted gross income from Schedule HC, line 2 1
2	Enter the income amount that corresponds to your family size (as

If line 1 is less than or equal to line 2, your income in 2025 was at or below 150% of the Federal Poverty Level and the penalty does not apply to you in 2025. Fill in the Yes oval in line 6 of Schedule HC, skip the remainder of Schedule HC and continue completing your tax return.

If line 1 is greater than line 2, your income in 2025 was above 150% of the Federal Poverty Level. Fill in the No oval in line 6 of Schedule HC and go to line 7 of Schedule HC.

Table 1: Federal Poverty Level, Annual Income Standards

Family size*	150% FPL
1	\$22,590
2	\$30,660
3	\$38,730
4	\$46,800
5	\$54,870
6	\$62,940
7	\$71,010
8	\$79,080
additional	+\$ 8,070

*Include only yourself, your spouse (if living in the same household at any point during the year), and any dependents as claimed on Form 1, line 2b or Form 1-NR/PY, line 4b. If married filing separately and living in the same household at any point during the year, include all dependents claimed by you and your spouse.

Schedule HC Worksheet for Line 10: Eligibility for Employer-Sponsored Insurance That Met Minimum **Creditable Coverage**

The following worksheet will determine if you could have afforded employer-sponsored health insurance that met Minimum Creditable Coverage in 2025 (the employer's Human Resources Department should be able to provide this information to you). Complete only if you (and/or your spouse if married filing jointly) were eligible for insurance that met Minimum Creditable Coverage offered by an employer for the entire period you were uninsured in 2025 that covered you, and your spouse and dependent children, if any. If an employer did not offer health insurance that met Minimum Creditable Coverage that covered you, and your spouse and dependent children, if any, or if you were not eligible for insurance that met Minimum Creditable Coverage offered by an employer, you were self-employed or you were unemployed, fill in the No oval(s) in line 10 of Schedule HC and complete the Schedule HC Worksheet for Line 11 on page HC-8.

Note: If you answered Yes in line 6 of Schedule HC indicating that your income was at or below 150% of the Federal Poverty Level or you had three or fewer blank ovals in a row during the period that the mandate applied on line 7 of Schedule HC, the penalty does not apply to you. Do not complete this

worksheet. Skip the remainder of Schedule HC and continue completing your return. Be sure to enclose Schedule HC with your return. If an employer offere you free health insurance coverage in 2025 that met Minimum Creditable Coverage (the employer's Human Resources Department should be able to provide this information to you), you are deemed able to afford health insurance and are subject to a penalty. Fill in the Yes oval(s) in line 10 of Schedule Hoalth Care Penalty Worksheet on page HC-11.
1. Enter your federal adjusted gross income from U.S. Form 1040, line 11a
If line 1 is less than or equal to: \$22,590 if single or married filing separately with no dependents; \$30,660 if married filing jointly with no dependents or head of household/married filing separately with one dependent; or \$38,730 if married filing jointly with one or more dependents or head of household/married filing separately with two or more dependents, you are deemed unable to afford employer-sponsored health insurance that met Minimum Creditabl Coverage requiring an employee contribution. Fill in the No oval(s) in line 10 of Schedule HC. Skip the remainder of this worksheet and go to the Schedule HC Worksheet for Line 11 on page HC-8.
If line 1 is more than: \$22,590 if single or married filing separately with no dependents; \$30,660 if married filing jointly with no dependents or head of hous hold/married filing separately with one dependent; or \$38,730 if married filing jointly with one or more dependents or head of household/married filing separately with two or more dependents, go to line 2.
2. Enter the lowest monthly premium cost of health insurance that would cover you, and your spouse and dependent children, if any, offered to you during your uninsured period in 2025 through an employer. The employer's Human Resources Department should be able to provide this amount to you
3. Enter the affordable premium as a percentage of income that corresponds with your income range (from line 1 of worksheet) and filing status from Table 3: Affordability on page HC-10. To find this amount, look at the row for your income range in col. a of the appropriate table based on your filing status and go to column b to find the percentage
4. Multiply 1 by line 3
Note: When you multiply by a percentage, move the decimal point two places to the left first. For example, if your percentage is 7.40%, multiply your incom by 0.0740.
5. Divide line 4 by 12 to calculate the monthly premium considered affordable to you
If line 2 is less than or equal to line 5: you are deemed able to afford employer-sponsored health insurance that met Minimum Creditable Coverage during your uninsured period(s), which you did not obtain, and you are subject to a penalty. Fill in the Yes oval(s) in line 10 of Schedule HC, and go to the Health Care Penalty Worksheet on page HC-11.

If line 2 is greater than line 5: you could not afford health insurance that met Minimum Creditable Coverage offered to you by your employer, fill in the No oval(s) in line 10 of Schedule HC, and complete the following Schedule HC Worksheet for Line 11 on page HC-8.

Schedule HC Worksheet for Line 11: Eligibility for Government-Subsidized Health Insurance

The following worksheet will determine if you were eligible for government-subsidized health insurance in 2025. Complete the following worksheet only if an employer did not offer you affordable health insurance that met Minimum Creditable Coverage requirements, as determined in the Schedule HC Worksheet for Line 10.

Note: If you answered Yes in line 6 of Schedule HC indicating that your income was at or below 150% of the Federal Poverty Level or you had three or fewer blank ovals in a row during the period that the mandate applied on line 7 of Schedule HC, the penalty does not apply to you. Do not complete this work sheet. Skip the remainder of Schedule HC and continue completing your return.

If married filing separately and living in the same household, each spouse must combine their income figures from their separate U.S. returns when com pleting this worksheet.

1. Enter your federal adjusted gross income from U.S. Form 1040,	
line 11a 1	
2. Enter the amount from the Income column, based on your	
family size	

If line 1 is greater than line 2: you were ineligible for government-subsidized health insurance in 2025 and must fill in the No oval(s) in line 11 of Schedule HC, and go to Schedule HC Worksheet for Line 12 to determine if you were deemed able to afford private health insurance.

If line 1 is less than or equal to line 2, and at any point during the period when you were uninsured: you were not legally residing in the U.S., or an employer offered an individual plan that cost less than 9.02% of your household income and met minimum value standards (the employer's Human Resources Department should be able to provide this information to you), or you applied for Mass Health or subsidized coverage through the Health Connector and were denied because you were ineligible for services, you are deemed ineligible for government-subsidized health insurance in 2025. Fill in the No oval(s) in line 11 of Schedule HC, and go to Schedule HC Worksheet for Line 12 to determine if you were able to afford private health insurance.

If line 1 is less than or equal to line 2, and none of the above conditions apply, you would have been deemed eligible for government-subsidized health insurance in 2025, which you did not obtain and you are subject to a penalty. Fill in the Yes oval(s) in line 11 of Schedule HC and go to the Health Care Penalty Worksheet on page HC-11. **Note:** If you believe that, during the period when you were unincurred your income was actually too high to qualify for government subsidized insurance, you may

Table 2: Income at 500% of the Federal Poverty Level

Family size*	500% FPL
1	\$75,300
2	\$102,200
3	\$129,100
4	\$156,000
5	\$182,900
6	\$209,800
7	\$236,700
8	\$263,600
additional	+\$26,900

*Include only yourself, your spouse (if married filing a joint return) and any dependent children you claim on your federal tax return in your family size. For family size over 8, add \$26,900 for each additional family member.

uninsured, your income was actually too high to qualify for government-subsidized insurance, you may have grounds to appeal the penalty. Fill in the Yes oval(s) in line 11 of Schedule HC and go to the instructions for the Appeals section.

Schedule HC Worksheet for Line 12: Ability to Purchase Affordable Private Health Insurance That Met Minimum Creditable Coverage

The following worksheet will determine if you could have purchased affordable private health insurance that met Minimum Creditable Coverage in 2025. Complete the following worksheet only if you (and/or your spouse if married filing jointly) were deemed ineligible for government-subsidized health insurance, as determined in the Schedule HC Worksheet for line 11.

Note: If you answered Yes in line 6 of Schedule HC indicating that your income was at or below 150% of the Federal Poverty Level or you had three or fewer blank ovals in a row during the period that the mandate applied in line 7 of Schedule HC, the penalty does not apply to you. Do not complete this worksheet. Skin the remainder of Schedule HC and continue completing your return. Be sure to enclose Schedule HC with your return.

Skip the remainder of Schedule HC and continue completing your return. Be sure to enclose Schedule HC with your return.	
1. Enter your federal adjusted gross income from U.S. Form 1040, line 11a	
2. Enter the monthly premium that corresponds with your county of residency, age (if married filing a joint return, use the age of the older spouse) and filing status from Table 4: Premiums on page HC-10	
Go to the table that corresponds to your county of residency and go to the row for your age range and then go to the column based of find the monthly premium amount.	on your filing status to
3. Enter the affordable premium as a percentage of income that corresponds with your income range (from line 1 of worksheet) a	and filing status from
Table 3: Affordability on page HC-10. To find this amount, look at the row for your income range in col. a of the appropriate table based on your filing status and go to col. b to find the percentage	
4. Multiply line 1 by line 3	
Note: When you multiply by a percentage, move the decimal point two places to the left first. For example, if your percentage is 7.459 by 0.0745.	%, multiply your income
5. Divide line 4 by 12 to calculate the monthly premium considered affordable to you	
If line 2 is greater than line 5: you are deemed unable to afford health insurance that met Minimum Creditable Coverage and not syou must fill in the No oval(s) in line 12 of Schedule HC and skip the remainder of Schedule HC and continue completing your tax re	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,

If line 2 is less than or equal to line 5: you are deemed able to afford private health insurance that met Minimum Creditable Coverage, which you did not obtain; you are subject to a penalty and you must fill in the Yes oval(s) in line 12 of Schedule HC and go to the Health Care Penalty Worksheet on page HC-11.

DRAFT AS OF NOVEMBER 21, 2025. SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

Table 3: Affordability

Individual or Married Filing Separately (no dependents)				
a. Federal Adjus	b. Affordable Premium as a percentage			
From	То	of income		
\$ 0	\$22,590	0.00%		
\$22,591	\$30,120	2.90%		
\$30,121	\$37,650	4.20%		
\$37,651	\$45,180	5.00%		
\$45,181	\$52,710	7.45%		
\$52,711	\$60,240	7.60%		
\$60,241	_	8.00%		

Married Filing Jointly with no dependents or Head of Household/Married Filing Separately with one dependent

a. Federal Adjus	b. Affordable Premium as a percentage	
From	То	of income
\$ 0	\$30,660	0.00%
\$30,661	\$40,880	4.30%
\$40,881	\$51,100	6.20%
\$51,101	\$61,320	7.40%
\$61,321	\$71,540	7.45%
\$71,541	\$81,760	7.60%
\$81,761	_	8.00%

Married Filing Jointly with one or more dependents or Head of Household/Married Filing Separately with two or more dependents

a. Federal Adjus	b. Affordable Premium as a percentage			
From	То	of income		
\$ 0	\$38,730	0.00%		
\$38,731	\$51,640	3.45%		
\$51,641	\$64,550	4.95%		
\$64,551	\$77,460	5.85%		
\$77,461	\$90,370	7.45%		
\$90,371	\$103,280	7.60%		
\$103,281	_	8.00%		

Table 4: Premiums

Region 1. Berkshire, Franklin, Hampden and Hampshire Counties			
Age	Age Individual Married Couple (no dependents)		Family
0–30	\$350	\$699	\$905
31–34	\$374	\$748	\$956
35–39	\$384	\$767	\$976
40–44	\$411	\$821	\$1,029
45–49	\$469	\$938	\$1,146
50–54	\$545	\$1,089	\$1,298
55+	\$561	\$1,121	\$1,330

Region 2. Barnstable, Bristol, Essex, Middlesex, Norfolk, Plymouth, Suffolk and Worcester Counties

Age	Individual	Married couple (no dependents)	Family
0–30	\$320	\$639	\$825
31–34	\$334	\$668	\$854
35–39	\$343	\$685	\$871
40–44	\$367	\$733	\$920
45–49	\$419	\$838	\$1,024
50–54	\$487	\$973	\$1,159
55+	\$501	\$1,002	\$1,188

Region 3. Dukes and Nantucket Counties

		Married sounds	
Age	Individual	Married couple (no dependents)	Family
0–30	\$445	\$890	\$1,151
31–34	\$539	\$1,078	\$1,378
35–39	\$553	\$1,106	\$1,406
40–44	\$592	\$1,183	\$1,484
45–49	\$676	\$1,351	\$1,652
50–54	\$785	\$1,570	\$1,870
55+	\$808	\$1,616	\$1,917

Health Care Penalty Worksheet JECT TO CHANGE

Complete the following worksheet to calculate the penalty. If married filing a joint return and both you and your spouse are subject to a penalty, separate worksheets must be filled out to calculate the separate penalty amounts for you and your spouse, using your married filing jointly income. Each separate penalty amount must then be entered on Form 1, line 35a and line 35b or Form 1-NR/PY, line 39a and line 39b.

Note: If you answered Yes in line 6 of Schedule HC indicating that your income was at or below 150% of the Federal Poverty Level, the penalty does not apply to you. Do not complete this worksheet. Skip the remainder of Schedule HC and continue completing your tax return.

1.	Enter your federal adjusted gross income from Schedule HC, line 2	1 L	
	Look at Table 5, Annual Income Standards, and enter col. A, B, C or D, based on your family size (from line 1c of Schedule HC) and income (from line 1 above)	Г	
3.	Based on the column entered in line 2, go to Table 6, Penalties for 2025, to determine the monthly penalty amount. Enter that amount here.	3	
4.	Enter the number of gap(s) in coverage of four or more consecutive months in which you were uninsured, as shown in Schedule HC, line 7. (Turning 18, Part-Year Residents or a Taxpayer Was Deceased: When completing line 4, do not include the number of unfilled ovals for months that the mandate did not apply, as determined in Schedule HC, line 7.) If you were uninsured for all of 2025 or for the period that the mandate applied, enter 0	4 [
5.	Enter the total number of months for the gap(s) in coverage in which you were uninsured from line 4. If you were uninsured for all of 2025, enter "12"	5	
6.	Multiply line 4 by the number "3"	6	
7.	Subtract line 6 from line 5	7	
8.	Multiply line 3 by line 7. This is your penalty amount	8	

If you are subject to a penalty because you are deemed able to afford insurance in 2025 but did not obtain it, you may appeal the application of the penalty to you. Instructions for filing an appeal can be found online at mass.gov/dor. If you are filing an appeal, do not enter a penalty amount on Form 1, line 35a or line 35b or Form 1-NR/PY, line 39a or line 39b. If you are not appealing the penalty, enter the penalty amount from line 8 on Form 1, line 35a or line 35b or Form 1-NR/PY, line 39a or line 39b.

Table 5: Annual Income Standards

Family	Col. A	Col.	Col. B		Col. C		Col. D		Col. E	
size	From To	From	To	From	To	From	To	From	To	Above
1	\$22,591 - \$30,1	90 \$30,121 -	\$37,650	\$37,651 -	\$45,180	\$45,181 -	\$60,240	\$60,241 -	\$75,300	\$75,300
2	30,661 - 40,88	40,881 –	51,100	51,101 –	61,320	61,321 –	81,760	81,761 –	102,200	102,200
3	38,731 - 51,64	51,641 –	64,550	64,551 –	77,460	77,461 –	103,280	103,281 –	129,100	129,100
4	46,801 - 62,40	62,401 –	78,000	78,001 –	93,600	93,601 -	124,800	124,801 –	156,000	156,000
5	54,871 - 73,16	73,161 –	91,450	91,451 –	109,740	109,741 –	146,320	146,321 –	182,900	182,900
6	62,941 - 83,92	83,921 –	104,900	104,901 -	125,880	125,881 –	167,840	167,841 –	209,800	209,800
7	71,011 - 94,68	94,681 –	118,350	118,351 –	142,020	142,021 -	189,360	189,361 –	236,700	236,700
8	79,081 - 105,4	105,441 –	131,800	131,801 –	158,160	158,161 –	210,880	210,881 –	263,600	263,600
additional	+\$ 8,070 +\$10,7	0 +\$10,760	+\$13,450	+\$13,450	+\$16,140	+16,140	+21,520	21,520	26,900	26,900

Note for 2025 due to ConnectorCare Expansion to 500% FPL (also included in the 2025 DOR Technical Information Release): Individuals with incomes less than or equal to 150% of the Federal Poverty Level are not subject to any penalty for non-compliance, as those at this income level are not required to pay an enrollee premium for ConnectorCare health insurance.

Penalties for individuals with incomes from 150.1 to 500% of the Federal Poverty Level will be half of the lowest priced ConnectorCare enrollee premium that could be charged to an individual at the corresponding income level, based on the ConnectorCare enrollee premiums as of January 1, 2025

Penalties for individuals with incomes greater than 500% of the Federal Poverty Level will be half of the lowest priced individual Bronze premium, based on the Health Connector's prices for these plans as of January 1, 2025.

Penalties for married couples who do not comply with the individual mandate rules (with or without children) will equal the sum of individual penalties for each spouse.

See TIR 24-1 on DOR' website at mass.gov/dor for more information.

Table 6: Penalties for 2025

Col.	Monthly penalty amount
Α	\$ 25.00
В	\$ 49.00
C	\$ 73.00
D	\$113.00
E	\$132.00
F	\$187.00

Municipality	County	Municipality	County	Municipality	County	- Municipality	County
Abington		Edgartown	Dukes	Medway	Norfolk	Seekonk	
Acton		Egremont		Melrose		Sharon	
Acushnet		Erving		Mendon		Sheffield	
Adams		Essex		Merrimac		Shelburne	
Agawam		Everett		Methuen		Sherborn	
Alford		Fairhaven		Middleborough		Shirley	
Amesbury		Fall River		Middlefield		Shrewsbury	
Andover		Fitchburg		Milford		Somerset	
Arlington		Florida		Millbury		Somerville	
Ashburnham		Foxborough		Millis		South Hadley	
Ashby	Middlesex	Framingham	Middlesex	Millville		Southampton	
Ashfield	Franklin	Franklin	Norfolk	Milton	Norfolk	Southborough	Worcester
Ashland		Freetown		Monroe	Franklin	Southbridge	
Athol		Gardner		Monson		Southwick	
Attleboro		Gay Head		Montague		Spencer	
Auburn		Georgetown		Monterey		Springfield	
Avon		Gill		Montgomery		Sterling	
Ayer		Gloucester		Mount Washington		Stockbridge	
Barre		Gosnold		Nahant		Stoughton	
Becket		Grafton		Natick		Stow	
Bedford		Granby		Needham		Sturbridge	
Belchertown		Granville		New Ashford		Sudbury	
Bellingham		Great Barrington		New Bedford		Sunderland	
Belmont		Greenfield		New Braintree		Sutton	
Berkley		Groton		New Marlborough		Swampscott	
Berlin	Worcester	Groveland		New Salem		Swansea	
Bernardston	Franklin	Hadley	Hampshire	Newbury	Essex	Taunton	Bristol
Beverly	Essex	Halifax	Plymouth	Newburyport	Essex	Templeton	Worcester
Billerica		Hamilton		Newton		Tewksbury	
Blackstone		Hampden		Norfolk		Tisbury	
Blandford		Hancock		North Adams		Tolland	
Bolton		Hanover		North Andover		Topsfield	
Boston		Hanson		North Attleborough		Townsend	
Bourne		Hardwick		North Brookfield		Truro	
Boxborough		Harvard		North Reading		Tyngsborough	
Boxford		Harwich		Northampton		Tyringham	
Braintree		Haverhill		Northbridge		Uxbridge	
Brewster		Hawley		Northfield		Wakefield	
Bridgewater		Heath		Norton		Wales	
Brimfield		Hingham		Norwell		Walpole	
Brockton		Hinsdale		Norwood		Waltham	
Brookfield		Holbrook		Oak Bluffs		Ware	
Brookline	Norfolk	Holden	Worcester	Oakham	Worcester	Wareham	Plymouth
Buckland	Franklin	Holland	Hampden	Orange	Franklin	Warren	Worcester
Burlington		Holliston	Middlesex	Orleans		Warwick	Franklin
Cambridge		Holyoke		Otis		Washington	
Canton		Hopedale		Oxford		Watertown	
Carlisle		Hopkinton		Palmer		Wayland	
Carver		Hubbardston		Paxton		Webster	
Charlemont		Hudson		Peabody		Wellesley	
Charlton Chatham		Hull		Pelham		Wellfleet	
		Huntington		Pembroke		Wendell	
Chelmsford		lpswich		Peru		Wenham	
	Berkshire	Lakeville		Petersham		West Bridgewater	
Chester		Lancaster		Phillipston		West Brookfield	
Chesterfield		Lanesborough		Pittsfield		West Newbury	
Chicopee		Lawrence		Plainfield		West Springfield	
Chilmark		Lee		Plainville		West Stockbridge	
Clarksburg		Leicester		Plymouth		West Tisbury	Dukes
Clinton		Lenox		Plympton		Westborough	
Cohasset		Leominster		Princeton		Westfield	
Colrain		Leverett		Provincetown		Westford	
Concord		Lexington		Quincy		Westhampton	
Conway		Leyden		Randolph		Westminster	
Cummington		Lincoln		Raynham		Weston	
Dalton		Littleton		Reading		Westwood	
Danvers		Longmeadow		Rehoboth		Westwood	
Dartmouth		Lowell		Revere		Whately	
Deerfield		Lunenburg		Rochester		Whitman	
Dennis		Lynn		Rockland		Wilbraham	
Dighton		Lynnfield		Rockport		Williamsburg	
Douglas		Malden		Rowe		Williamstown	
Dover		Manchester		Rowley		Wilmington	
Dracut		Mansfield		Royalston		Winchendon	
Oudley		Marblehead		Russell		Winchester	
Dunstable		Marion	Plymouth	Rutland		Windsor	
Duxbury		Marlborough		Salem		Winthrop	
East Bridgewater		Marshfield		Salisbury		Woburn	
East Brookfield	Worcester	Mashpee	Barnstable	Sandisfield	Berkshire	Worceste	Worcester
East Longmeadow		Mattapoisett		Sandwich		Worthington	
	Rarnstable	Maynard	Middlesex	Saugus	Essex	Wrentham	Norfolk
EasthamEasthamptonEaston	Hampshire	Medfield	Norfolk	Savoy Scituate	Berkshire	Yarmouth	