



**Commonwealth of Massachusetts**  
**Executive Office of Health and Human Services**  
**Office of Medicaid**  
[www.mass.gov/masshealth](http://www.mass.gov/masshealth)

**MassHealth**  
**Home Health Agency Bulletin 58**  
**June 2020**

**TO:** Home Health Agencies Providing Continuous Skilled Nursing Services and Participating in MassHealth

**FROM:** Amanda Cassel Kraft, Acting Medicaid Director

**RE: Implementation of Rate Add-On Applicable to Certain Continuous Skilled Nursing Services to Address Costs Associated with Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)**

## **Introduction**

This provider bulletin communicates Home Health program requirements regarding certain Continuous Skilled Nursing (CSN) service rate updates to address costs associated with the 2019 novel coronavirus (COVID-19).

The Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS), which administers the Massachusetts Medicaid program known as “MassHealth,” is temporarily providing a COVID-19 related add-on rate for certain MassHealth CSN services in light of the COVID-19 emergency. See Administrative Bulletin 20-63. Specifically, EOHHS is providing an add-on rate to certain CSN rates to address costs associated with in-home nursing compensation and the acquisition of personal protective equipment (PPE) associated with COVID-19.

The rate add-on is effective for dates of service provided from May 1, 2020, through July 31, 2020.

The program requirements associated with the COVID-19 rate add-on, including specific reporting requirements, are provided below.

## **Program Requirements for the COVID-19 Add-On Rate**

Home health agencies must use the COVID-19 add-on rate issued in Administrative Bulletin 20-63 to provide financial compensations to in-home nursing staff and support costs associated with acquiring PPE. Financial compensations to in-home nursing staff may include payment of an overtime rate, wage increases, and other supports that directly benefit in-home nursing staff.

## **Reporting Requirements for the COVID-19 Add-On Rate**

Home health agencies that provide CSN services must submit to EOHHS documentation demonstrating that the rate add-on is being used as described above. Such documentation may include payroll information and receipts of PPE purchases.

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Documentation of the use of the increased funding must be sent to the MassHealth Long Term Services and Supports (LTSS) Provider Service Center at [support@masshealthtss.com](mailto:support@masshealthtss.com). Home health agencies should make the subject of their email: Documentation Regarding Home Health Agency Bulletin 20-63 for [Insert Home Health Agency Name]. Documentation is due no later than August 31, 2020.

**Failure to Submit Documentation Pursuant to This Notice**

Providers may be subject to sanction for failure to submit documentation of their use of the add-on rate within the timeline(s) noted above. See 130 CMR 450.238.

**MassHealth Website**

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

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**Questions**

The MassHealth LTSS Provider Service Center is open from 8 am to 6 pm ET, Monday through Friday, excluding holidays. LTSS Providers should direct their questions about this letter or other MassHealth LTSS Provider questions to the LTSS Third Party Administrator (TPA) as follows:

<b>Method</b>	<b>Contact Information for MassHealth LTSS Provider Service Center</b>
<b>Phone</b>	Toll-free <b>(844) 368-5184</b>
<b>Email</b>	<a href="mailto:support@masshealthtss.com">support@masshealthtss.com</a>
<b>Portal</b>	MassHealthLTSS.com
<b>Mail</b>	MassHealth LTSS PO Box 159108 Boston, MA 02215
<b>Fax</b>	<b>(888) 832-3006</b>
<b>LTSS Provider Portal</b>	Trainings, general Information, and future enhancements will be available at <a href="http://www.MassHealthLTSS.com">www.MassHealthLTSS.com</a> .