***Commonwealth of Massachusetts***

***Executive Office of Health and Human Services***

***Office of Medicaid***

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# 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 [Signature of Amanda Cassel Kraft]

**RE: Implementation of Rate Add-On Applicable to Certain Continuous Skilled Nursing Serves 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.

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@masshealthltss.com](mailto:support@masshealthltss.com). Home health agencies should make the subject of their email: Documentation Regarding Home Health Agency Bulletin 58 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](http://www.mass.gov/masshealth-provider-bulletins) web page.

To sign up to receive email alerts when MassHealth issues new bulletins and transmittal letters, send a blank email to [join-masshealth-provider-pubs@listserv.state.ma.us](Mailto:join-masshealth-provider-pubs@listserv.state.ma.us). No text in the body or subject line is needed.

## 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 bulletin or other MassHealth LTSS Provider questions to the LTSS Third Party Administrator (TPA) as follows:

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| **Method** | **Contact Information for MassHealth LTSS Provider Service Center** |
| **Phone** | Toll-free **(844) 368-5184** |
| **Email** | [support@masshealthltss.com](mailto:support@masshealthltss.com) |
| **Portal** | MassHealthLTSS.com |
| **Mail** | MassHealth LTSS  PO Box 159108  Boston, MA 02215 |
| **Fax** | **(888) 832-3006** |
| **LTSS Provider Portal** | Trainings, general information, and future enhancements will be available at [www.MassHealthLTSS.com](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=http-3A__www.MassHealthLTSS.com&d=DwMFAg&c=lDF7oMaPKXpkYvev9V-fVahWL0QWnGCCAfCDz1Bns_w&r=veVTsGuhwVXhgeAKPWzzZkJXrnctsPfeegfH4rzH1lw&m=ROQoKY-5ZaiHWs7ZktBtNJzUSbDA8J0w34-bRW_Nn00&s=ZvyXKC_Y4ZdhAsdsNeaMtXmK2_x5FrxY2cl04UzHA4Y&e=). |