



Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Health and Human Services
Office of Medicaid
www.mass.gov/masshealth

MassHealth
Home Health Agency Bulletin 77
July 2022

TO: Home Health Agencies Participating in MassHealth

FROM: Amanda Cassel Kraft, Assistant Secretary for MassHealth

RE: **Updates for CSN Overtime Policy effective July 1, 2022**

Introduction

In March 2022, the Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS) issued [Home Health Agency Bulletin 73](#) that temporarily permits home health agencies providing CSN services to bill MassHealth at the CSN overtime (OT) rates established in 101 CMR 361.00 for individual providers.

This bulletin amends Home Health Agency Bulletin 73 by

- extending access to the CSN OT rates established under 101 CMR 361.00 through December 31, 2022;
- streamlining OT authorization requirements; and
- expanding the types of MassHealth funded payers that count towards the threshold to access the CSN OT rate.

This bulletin is effective for dates of service beginning July 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022. All other guidance in Home Health Agency Bulletin 73 remains in effect for the dates outlined in the bulletin.

All CSN services, including those reimbursed at an overtime rate, must be delivered in accordance with all applicable program requirements and regulations as set forth in 130 CMR 438.000: Continuous Skilled Nursing Agency and 130 CMR 403.000: Home Health Agency.

Home Health Agency Overtime Access Extension for CSN Services

MassHealth is extending the temporary access to CSN OT rates for services provided by home health agencies for an additional six-month period. Home health agencies will have access to the agency overtime rates for CSN services through December 31, 2022.

Home Health Agency Overtime Authorization, Documentation Requirements, and Reimbursement for CSN Services

To streamline the CSN overtime authorization process for home health agencies, MassHealth is making the following changes:

Authorization of Agency Overtime for CSN Services

MassHealth or its designee will proactively authorize OT units for CSN services and establish these units on the home health agency's PA for each MassHealth Member. OT CSN units will be designated as a one-time additional allocation equivalent to one week's worth of the member's CSN services as authorized by the MassHealth Agency for the home health agency. The OT units are not to be used to provide additional CSN services to the member over and above the number of services authorized per week by MassHealth for the member and home health agency. Such use could be subject to sanction or overpayment per 130 CMR. 450.000.

Home health agencies that require additional CSN OT units must request a change to the PA. CSN Agencies may make this request through email to commcase@umassmed.edu. The email must include the number of units that the CSN Agency needs to have added to each modifier line on the PA. MassHealth or its designee will modify prior authorization through its typical process. All reimbursement rules established under the CSN Agency Manual, including service codes and reimbursement rates, apply.

Expansion of MassHealth Funded Payers to Qualify a Nurse for OT

As of July 1, 2022, MassHealth will allow overtime hours worked by the nurse providing services to a member in a MassHealth managed care plan (ACO, MCO, SCO, OneCare, and PACE) to count in meeting the threshold to request and use CSN OT rates.

Documentation Requirements for Home Health Agency Overtime Usage for CSN Services

In accordance with 130 CMR 438.417 and 130 CMR 403.421, home health and CSN agencies, must participate in any quality management and program integrity processes as requested by MassHealth.

Accordingly, Home Health Agencies will be required to provide documentation to MassHealth or its designee demonstrating that the following requirements are met:

1. no other nurses are available and employed by the agency that can adequately provide the CSN services without exceeding 40 hours (through the submission of a signed attestation); and
2. CSN services are provided to MassHealth fee for service or managed care members by the same agency nurse and exceed 40 hours in a given calendar week.

This documentation will be submitted to MassHealth or its designee by January 31, 2023 or as requested by MassHealth.

Failure to submit requested documentation to the MassHealth agency, and in the timeframe requested, may result in administrative sanction in accordance with 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 also open from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. 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:

Phone: Toll free (844) 368-5184

Email: support@masshealthltss.com

Portal: www.MassHealthLTSS.com

Mail: MassHealth LTSS
PO Box 159108
Boston, MA 02215

Fax: (888) 832-3006