

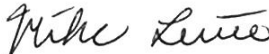


Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Health and Human Services
Office of Medicaid
www.mass.gov/masshealth

Independent Nurse Bulletin 17

DATE: February 2024

TO: Independent Nurse Providers Participating in MassHealth

FROM: Mike Levine, Assistant Secretary for MassHealth 

RE: **Amended: Continuous Skilled Nursing Retention Bonuses for Independent Nurses Providers**

Introduction

The Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS) has established a continuous skilled nursing (CSN) Retention Bonus Program, available to licensed nurses who are MassHealth-enrolled independent nurse (IN) providers who deliver CSN services in accordance with the service commitment requirements in this bulletin. Retention bonuses will be paid directly to INs each service quarter (every three months). In addition to retention bonus amounts and service commitment requirements, this bulletin describes IN billing procedures and requirements applicable to participating agencies.

This bulletin supersedes and replaces [Independent Nurse Bulletin 12](#) and extends the dates of service for which the Retention Bonus Program will be accessible. The Retention Bonus Program will now be accessible to INs for dates of service from April 2023 through June 2024.

Retention Bonus Amounts and Service Commitment Requirements

INs serving eligible MassHealth members will receive a retention bonus every three months for the duration of this program as long as they meet the following service commitment requirements.

Service Commitment	Retention Bonus Amount
480 hours in 3 months	\$3,250
360 hours in 3 months	\$2,000
260 hours in 3 months	\$1,200

To meet the service commitment requirements, nurses must provide CSN services directly to MassHealth members enrolled in the Community Case Management (CCM) program. INs may collect only one retention bonus per service quarter, even if they also work for a CSN agency.

Hours worked for an agency and as an IN may not be combined to meet service commitment requirements.

Billing Procedures, Codes, and Payment Schedule

Payment Schedule

INs must submit retention bonus claims to MassHealth each service quarter, during the calendar month immediately after the previous quarter ends. Please see billing schedule here.

Service Quarter	Billing Month
April 2023–June 2023	July 2023
July 2023–September 2023	October 2023
October 2023–December 2023	January 2024
January 2024–March 2024	April 2024
April 2024 – June 2024	July 2024

Procedure Codes

INs must use the following procedure codes and modifiers when billing for CSN retention bonuses.

- T1030 U1: Nursing care, in the home, by registered nurse, per diem (CSN nurse retention bonus for 480 hours) (use for RN and LPN) (per nurse)
- T1030 U2: Nursing care, in the home, by registered nurse, per diem (CSN nurse retention bonus for 360 hours) (use for RN and LPN) (per nurse)
- T1030 U3: Nursing care, in the home, by registered nurse, per diem (CSN nurse retention bonus for 260 hours) (use for RN and LPN) (per nurse)

Billing Procedures

Before billing MassHealth for a retention bonus, INs must ensure that they have billed MassHealth for all qualifying CSN services provided during the service quarter. When billing for a retention bonus, INs must ensure that each claim submission is attached to a CCM member whom the IN has served, even if the IN also qualifies for the retention bonus by having served other CCM members.

When MassHealth receives a retention bonus claim, it will suspend the claim for manual review before issuing a final claim status.

If an IN has questions about the status of a claim submission, please email the LTSS Service Center at support@masshealthltss.com with the subject line “[*add your* IN Name] CSN Retention Bonus Claim [*add your* MassHealth Internal Control Number (ICN)].”

Documentation Requirements and Noncompliance

In accordance with 130 CMR 414.417(C), INs must participate in any quality management and program integrity processes requested by MassHealth. INs must also maintain a record that complies with 130 CMR 414.000 for each CCM member they serve. INs who do not adhere to the requirements in this bulletin may be subject to 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

If you have questions about the information in this bulletin, please contact:

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