



**Commonwealth of Massachusetts**  
**Executive Office of Health and Human Services**  
**Office of Medicaid**  
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## **Independent Nurse Bulletin 20**

**DATE:** October 2024

**TO:** Independent Nurses Participating in MassHealth

**FROM:** Mike Levine, Assistant Secretary for MassHealth

**RE:** **Authorization of CSN Training Time for Nurses Beginning to Care for a Member - Amended**

### **Introduction**

MassHealth is amending its process for issuing continuous skilled nursing (CSN) prior authorization (PA) determinations for members in the MassHealth Community Case Management (CCM) program to include additional authorized units for in-home, member-specific CSN training time. CSN training time units may be authorized and used when an independent nurse (IN) begins working with a CCM member for the first time and requires training for the member's specific care needs.

This bulletin supersedes and replaces Independent Nurse Bulletin 19 by clarifying rates of reimbursement for CSN training time. All CSN services, including those reimbursed for CSN training time, must be delivered in accordance with all applicable program requirements and regulations as set forth in [130 CMR 414.000](#): *Independent Nurse*.

### **Conditions of Payment for CSN Training Time Units**

INs may only use CSN training time units for in-home, member-specific training. MassHealth or its designee may authorize up to eight hours of CSN training time units for the IN to be onboarded to manage the member's treatment regimen. These units must be applied during the first six weeks after the IN receives their PA to begin working with a member for the first time. INs may use CSN training time units when

1. the member has another CSN provider who can provide in-home, member-specific training to the new IN; or
2. the member's natural caregiver and or family will be training the IN on the member's care.

INs providing training to other CSN providers may not use CSN training time units. CSN training time units may only be used by the IN when the IN is receiving in-home, member-specific training.

## Prior Authorization of CSN Training Time

MassHealth or its designee will proactively authorize eight hours of CSN training time units on IN PAs when an IN begins working with a member for the first time. INs who have been working with members for more than six weeks will not be eligible for CSN training time units. INs may not request additional CSN training time units.

All reimbursement rules established under the [Independent Nurse Manual](#) apply, including service codes and reimbursement rates.

## Rates of Payment and Billing Instructions for In-Home, Member-Specific Training Time

The rates of payment for in-home, member-specific training time for INs will be in accordance with the single patient and multiple-patient daytime, weekend, and holiday rates for CSN services established under [101 CMR 361.00: Rates for Continuous Skilled Nursing Agency and Independent Nursing Services](#) and Subchapter 6 of the [Independent Nurse Manual](#). CSN training time rates do not include a separate rate for nighttime services. Units billed for services provided between 3 p.m. and 7 a.m. Monday through Friday will be paid at the equivalent weekday rate. INs must include modifier U6 along with the appropriate procedure code and modifier, if applicable, when submitting claims for in-home, member-specific training. MassHealth will not, however, pay claim lines billed with both the UJ and U6 modifiers.

## Documentation Requirements and Noncompliance

INs are required to document in the member's medical record any in-home, member-specific training time that takes place. The documentation must show that the IN used CSN training time units in accordance with this bulletin.

INs who do not follow the requirements in this bulletin may be subject to sanction in accordance with [130 CMR 450.238: Sanctions: General](#) or the overpayment provisions in [130 CMR 450.235: Overpayments](#).

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## Questions

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

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