



THE PRESCRIBER e-LETTER

MassHealth Uniform Formulary Updates: Effective April 1, 2023

MassHealth partners with Managed Care Organizations (MCOs) and Accountable Care Organizations (ACOs), which include Accountable Care Partnership Plans (ACPPs) and Primary Care Accountable Care Organizations (PCACOs), to provide health care and pharmacy services. Before April 1, 2023, ACPPs and MCOs managed their own prescription drug formularies.

Effective April 1, 2023, MassHealth is unifying pharmacy drug coverage. This means all plans, including MCOs and ACPPs, will be required to use the MassHealth Drug List (MHDL) for pharmacy drug coverage and will cover all prescription drugs, non-drug pharmacy products, and over-the-counter drugs uniformly as shown in the MHDL. The MHDL is the list of medications covered by MassHealth that includes prior authorization status, clinical criteria, and additional coverage notes (such as mandatory 90-day supply). This unification simplifies management for prescribers, streamlines continuity of care for members, and maximizes cost savings for the Commonwealth.

All plans will have a link on their website to the MassHealth Drug List, which includes the following:

- Prior authorization status and criteria
- Mandatory and allowable 90-day supply rules
- Drugs only covered through medical benefit (marked as MB on the MHDL)
- Brand preferred over generic drugs
- Covered OTC (over-the-counter) medications
- Non-drug product list
- Pharmacy covered professional services list
- Acute hospital carve-out drugs
- Medicare Part D exclusions
- Pharmacy initiatives and clinical information
- Supplemental Rebate/Preferred Drug List

For more information on the above items please see [MassHealth Drug List--Health and Human Services](#).

Frequently Asked Questions:

1. *Will there be differences in clinical initiatives and policies between MassHealth fee-for-service (FFS)/Primary Care Clinician (PCC)/*

/Primary Care Accountable Care Organization (PCACO) and MassHealth MCO/Accountable Care Partnership Plans (ACPP) plans?

MCOs and ACPPs may have differing policies for the following:

- Opioid management
- Drugs that must be filled at a specialty pharmacy/network pharmacy
- Pharmaceutical compounding management
- Prior authorization status and/or clinical criteria for drugs only covered through medical benefit

These policies will be noted on the MHDL MassHealth Accountable Care Partnership Plans (ACPP) and Managed Care Organizations (MCOs) page.

2. *How will the unification affect MassHealth members and providers?*

Beginning April 1, 2023, MassHealth members and providers will be able to use the MHDL to check coverage status of all prescription drugs, non-drug pharmacy products, and over-the-counter drugs, regardless of their plan. Providers may need to submit prior authorization (PA) for medications that did not require PA before and should consult the MHDL for more information.

3. *Will the prior authorization process change?*

MCOs and ACPPs will now use the PA forms found on the MHDL. These forms were updated to include MCO or ACPP contact information, including online PA via e-prescribing, phone, and fax numbers. Please refer to the MassHealth Accountable Care Partnership Plans (ACPP) and Managed Care Organizations (MCOs) page on the MHDL for information on how to submit PAs for specialty pharmacy and medical benefit (clinician administered) drugs.

4. *Are there any changes to the billing practices with the launch of the unified formulary?*

At this time there will be no changes to billing practices. Claims for medications billed via buy-and-bill or through outpatient hospital settings (i.e., medical benefit drugs) can continue to be submitted in the same manner that is consistent with the current practice.

The *Prescriber e-Letter* is an update designed to enhance the transparency and efficiency of the MassHealth drug prior-authorization (PA) process and the MassHealth Drug List. Each issue **highlights** key clinical **information and updates** to the **MassHealth Drug List**. The Prescriber E-Letter was prepared by the MassHealth Drug Utilization Review Program and the MassHealth Pharmacy Program.