



THE PRESCRIBER e-LETTER



Massachusetts ACCESS Law – Prescribing a 12-month Supply of Contraception to Eligible MassHealth Members

Under the Massachusetts ACCESS law, M.G.L. c. 118E, § 10K, eligible MassHealth members may receive up to a 12-month supply of birth control in a single pharmacy visit with no member cost sharing.

Contraceptive methods covered under the ACCESS law that can be dispensed in a 12-month supply include the following.

- Oral contraceptives
- Transdermal patches
- Vaginal rings
- Injectable contraception

To reduce potential medication waste, members newly starting a contraceptive method generally receive an initial 3-month trial before becoming eligible for a 12-month supply.

Reasons why claims for a 12-month supply of contraception may not pay at the pharmacy include the following.

- The member recently filled contraception, and it is too soon to refill the prescription. If the early refill is medically necessary, the pharmacy may contact the MassHealth Drug Utilization Review Program for an override at (800) 745-7318.
- The prescription does not contain sufficient refills or prescribed quantity to dispense a 12-month supply. Pharmacies are encouraged to contact the prescriber for a new prescription with sufficient quantity to fill a 12-month supply.
- The member's primary insurance coverage does not allow a 12-month supply. Pharmacies are required to comply with the primary insurer's claim requirements.

When appropriate, consider prescribing sufficient quantity and refills to allow dispensing of up to 12 months of contraception at a time. Prescribing practices that support 12-month dispensing can help reduce gaps in contraception and improve continuity of care for MassHealth members.

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.

Please send any **suggestions** or **comments** to prescribereletter@massmail.state.ma.us