Obtaining contraception in Massachusetts...

...should be affordable and accessible

Insurance is required to cover contraception. You have a right to insurance coverage for contraception in Massachusetts. The Massachusetts Contraceptive ACCESS law requires insurance plans subject to Massachusetts law to fully cover contraception and emergency contraception.

- If your health insurance provider is required to follow Massachusetts law, meaning that it is a fully-insured health plan (e.g., MassHealth, a plan purchased on the MA Health Connector, and many employer-sponsored plans), contraception is covered at no cost.
  - If you are not sure whether your health insurance is fully-insured, contact your health insurance
  - provider or your employer.
  - For MassHealth members: **(800) 841-2900;** TTY: **(800) 497-4648**
  - For Group Insurance Commission (GIC) members: **(617) 727-2310**. If you are a GIC member and experience difficulty at the at the pharmacy, call **(855) 283-7679.**
- Limited exceptions exist for employers that are church organizations or qualified church-controlled organizations. Such an organization is required to tell their employees, before enrollment, if their employer-sponsored health insurance plan does not cover contraception.

Insurance coverage is broad. Fully-insured health plans are required to cover most FDA-approved contraceptive drugs, devices, and products. These plans are not required to cover over-the-counter emergency contraception; voluntary sterilization; and related follow-up services. These plans are allowed to require you to take a generic version of a pill or a different type of IUD, unless you require a specific brand for medical reasons.

You have options if you are uninsured. If you are uninsured or have insurance that does not cover contraception, many providers, community health centers, and reproductive health care centers offer no or low-cost contraceptives.

- Visit a DPH-funded clinic (which can be identified here: **https://www.mass.gov/info-details/sexual-and-reproductive-health-service-insurance-and-cost**) to receive low or no-cost contraceptives. Everyone is welcome, even if you are not from Massachusetts.
- Call the Health Safety Net at **877-910-2100** to find a hospital or community health center that provides low or no-cost contraceptives near you.
- Call Planned Parenthood at **617-295-7235** to see if you qualify for financial assistance.

If you have a problem with health insurance bills or medical bills, file a complaint with our Health Care Division online at **https://www.mass.gov/how-to/file-a-health-care-complaint** or call our Health Care Helpline at **(617) 963-2100.**

...should be confidential

Health care providers generally cannot share medical records or information about reproductive health care services — including abortion, birth control, and testing and treatment for sexually transmitted infections — with your partner, parents, guardians, or anyone else without your permission. Likewise, you employer cannot access personal information about your or your partner's reproductive health decisions.

...should be safe

Know Your Rights. You have a right to reproductive health care, including contraception, in Massachusetts that is free from discrimination, harassment, and violence. Any infringement on, or interference with, this right is against the law. It is illegal to deny (or coerce) you access to health care on the basis of your pregnancy history, as well as your actual or perceived gender identity or sexual orientation, or your race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, disability, or age. It is also illegal for an employer or housing provider to discriminate against you based on your reproductive health care decisions.

- If you have concerns about your experience accessing health care and/or believe that you have been discriminated against, please file a complaint with our Civil Rights Division online at **mass.gov/how-to/file-a-civil-rights-complaint** or call **617-963-2917**.

Ask for Protection. It is illegal in Massachusetts for an individual to impede access to a reproductive health care center.

- If someone is restricting access to a reproductive health care center, you should contact law enforcement, which can order that individual or individuals to relocate at least 25 feet away from the facility.
  - Restricting access includes the use or threat of force or physical obstruction to injure, intimidate, or interfere with individuals obtaining or providing reproductive health care. Examples of illegal behavior include blocking an entrance or exit; impeding a person trying to walk through the parking lot or into the facility; threatening or engaging in an act of physical violence; or stalking.
- If you have concerns about your experience accessing a reproductive health care center or with an anti-abortion center, file a complaint with our Civil Rights Division online at **mass.gov/how-to/file-a-civil-rights-complaint** or call **617-963-2917**.

Resources & Assistance

To access contraception in Massachusetts:

- Find a sexual and reproductive health service location near you: **https://www.mass.gov/info-details/sexual-and-reproductive-health-service-locations**
- Find a list of online providers here: **https://freethepill.org/resources/where-can-i-get-birth-control-pills-online**

For legal information and assistance:

- Call Health Care For All at **800-272-4232** for information about contraceptives, health insurance, and free care programs that meet your needs.
- Call the Abortion Legal Hotline at **833-309-6301.**
- Call the ACLU of Massachusetts at **617-482-3170** or online at: **legalresources@aclum.org.**
- Call the Attorney General's Office. For concerns about your health insurance or medical bills, please file a complaint with our Health Care Division online at **https://www.mass.gov/how-to/file-a-health-care-complaint** or call the Health Care Helpline at **(617) 963-2100.** For all other concerns about accessing contraception, please contact the Civil Rights Division at **mass.gov/how-to/file-a-civil-rights-complaint** or call **617-963-2917.**

If you have additional questions, please contact our Reproductive Justice Unit at reprojustice@mass.gov