



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

Managed Care Entity Bulletin 116

DATE: April 2024

TO: Managed Care Entities Participating in MassHealth

FROM: Mike Levine, Assistant Secretary for MassHealth

RE: Update to Coverage of and Reimbursement for Hospital at Home Services

Applicable Managed Care Entities and PACE Organizations

- ☒ Accountable Care Partnership Plans (ACPPs)
- ☒ Managed Care Organizations (MCOs)
- ☐ MassHealth's behavioral health vendor
- ☒ One Care Plans
- ☒ Senior Care Options (SCO) Plans
- ☒ Program of All-inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) Organizations

Overview

This bulletin updates the information in [Managed Care Entity Bulletin 56](#) regarding hospital at home services.

On November 25, 2020, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) announced its Acute Hospital Care at Home (AHCAH) program. This program provided time-limited authorization for certain hospitals to give acute inpatient hospital services in a patient's home. CMS further announced that State Medicaid agencies could claim federal financial participation for services given according to the CMS Acute Hospital Care at Home program.

Through the Rate Year 2021 Acute Hospital Request for Applications and Contracts (RY21 RFA), MassHealth communicated its plan to reimburse MassHealth-enrolled acute inpatient hospitals (AIHs) for hospital at home services. This plan was contingent upon CMS's approval and MassHealth's publication of sub regulatory guidance describing hospital at home services and reimbursement.

In December 2022, the federal Consolidated Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2023 was signed into law, extending the authority for CMS's Acute Hospital Care at Home program. As a result of this law, MassHealth will reimburse appropriately credentialed AIHs for providing hospital at home services to MassHealth members. These services will be provided according to this bulletin and the CMS Acute Hospital Care at Home program. The law is effective for dates of

service on or after CMS authorizes an acute inpatient hospital to participate in its Acute Hospital Care at Home program.

Through this bulletin, MassHealth is directing Accountable Care Partnership Plans (ACPPs), Managed Care Organizations (MCOs), as well as Senior Care Organizations (SCOs) and One Care Plans (referred to collectively here as “managed care entities”) to conform their coverage policies to those in [Acute Inpatient Hospital \(AIH\) Bulletin 197](#) when providing hospital at-home services as Medicaid services. Program of All Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) organizations should also follow the guidance in this bulletin as described in the paragraph immediately below.

SCOs, One Care Plans, and PACE organizations should first follow guidance provided by Medicare for hospital at-home services for Medicare enrollees. This includes hospital eligibility requirements and payment and billing instructions. SCOs and PACE organizations must follow the requirements in this bulletin for Medicaid-only enrollees.

Managed Care Entity and PACE Organization Coverage of and Payment for Hospital-at-Home Services

As described in [AIH Bulletin 197](#), waivers for hospital at-home services were originally intended to terminate at the end of the COVID-19 Federal Public Health emergency. However, section 4140 of the federal Consolidated Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2023 extended the waiver authority for hospital at home services until December 31, 2024.

AIH Bulletin 197 also updates and restates MassHealth acute inpatient hospital eligibility requirements, payment methodology, and billing instructions, along with other details about MassHealth’s coverage of hospital at-home services. These updates include coding changes. Managed care entities, and PACE organizations must conform their coverage policies to those in AIH Bulletin 197 when providing hospital at-home services as Medicaid services. This includes hospital eligibility requirements, payment methodology, and billing instructions.

MassHealth Website

This bulletin is available on the [MassHealth Provider Bulletins](#) web page.

[Sign up](#) to receive email alerts when MassHealth issues new bulletins and transmittal letters.

Questions

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

Long-Term Services and Supports

Phone: (844) 368-5184 (toll free)

Email: support@masshealthltss.com

Portal: MassHealthLTSS.com

Mail: MassHealth LTSS
PO Box 159108
Boston, MA 02215

Fax: (888) 832-3006

All Other Provider Types

Phone: (800) 841-2900, TDD/TTY: 711

Email: provider@masshealthquestions.com

 [MassHealth on Facebook](#)  [MassHealth on X \(Twitter\)](#)  [MassHealth on YouTube](#)