



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

Managed Care Entity Bulletin 141

DATE: November 2025

TO: Accountable Care Partnership Plans and Managed Care Organizations Participating in MassHealth

FROM: Mike Levine, Undersecretary for MassHealth

RE: **Prior Authorization Requirements for Hospital Outpatient Drugs**

Applicable Managed Care Entities and PACE Organizations

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

Background

MassHealth is updating certain prior authorization (PA) requirements effective January 1, 2026. MassHealth has not required a PA for hospital outpatient drugs, unless listed on the "Adjudicated Payment Amount per Discharge (APAD) and Adjudicated Payment per Episode of Care (APEC) Carve-Out Drugs List" (Table 1) which you can access through the "MassHealth Acute Hospital Carve-Out Drugs List" on the [MassHealth Drug List](#).

This will continue through December 31, 2025, but will change on January 1, 2026.

Changes Effective January 1, 2026

Effective January 1, 2026, MassHealth will require certain drugs that are billed through the acute hospital outpatient setting to require a PA as noted on the [MassHealth Drug List](#). Prior authorization requirements will be the same for drugs billed through the pharmacy, physician, or hospital outpatient setting. ACPPs and MCOs must align PA requirements as specified in the MHDL for five therapeutic classes: complement inhibitors, multiple myeloma agents, multiple sclerosis agents, oncology immunotherapies, and targeted immunomodulators, unless otherwise specified by EOHHS. A list of drugs included in these classes can be found on the "Hospital

Outpatient PA MHDL Unified Class Drugs” on the [MassHealth Accountable Care Partnership Plans and Managed Care Organizations Pharmacy Information](#) page.

Drugs billed through the emergency, trauma, or urgent acute hospital outpatient setting will not require PA. In addition, to avoid doubt, drugs billed through the inpatient setting will continue to not require PA unless on the “APAD/APEC Carve-Out Drug List” (Table 1) of the MassHealth Acute Hospital Carve-Out Drugs List. (You also can access this PDF through the [MassHealth Drug List](#).)

MassHealth Website

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

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

Questions?

- Call MassHealth at (800) 841-2900, TDD/TTY: 711
- Email us at provider@masshealthquestions.com



[MassHealth on Facebook](#)



[MassHealth on LinkedIn](#)



[MassHealth on X](#)



[MassHealth on YouTube](#)