



## **Managed Care Entity Bulletin 146**

**DATE:** March 2026

**TO:** Accountable Care Partnership Plans Participating in MassHealth

**FROM:** Mike Levine, Undersecretary for MassHealth

**RE:** **Accountable Care Partnership Plans—Service Area Additions and Removals Effective January 1, 2027**

### **Applicable Managed Care Entities and PACE Organizations**

- Accountable Care Partnership Plans (ACPPs)
- Primary Care Accountable Care Organizations (PCACOs)
- 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 explains how Accountable Care Partnership Plans (ACPPs) may add or remove service areas, as defined in the ACPP contract with the Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS) (the Contract), to or from their current list of service areas in Appendix F of the Contract.

Proposals to add or remove service areas are due no later than 4 p.m. on May 29, 2026. The effective date of approved additions to or removals from an ACPP's service area will be on or around January 1, 2027. An ACPP must also submit responses to [Managed Care Entity Bulletin 145](#), by the due date in that bulletin, to add or remove primary care providers (PCPs) to or from its exclusive list of PCPs to correspond with its proposals to add or remove service areas.

All proposed additions and removals approved by EOHHS will be made effective through an amendment to the Contract.

By providing an opportunity to add or remove service areas, EOHHS aims to support and further the goals of the MassHealth Accountable Care Organization (ACO) Program, which focuses on delivering integrated behavioral and physical healthcare, care management for members with complex needs, coordinated transitions of care, and improved member experiences.

If an ACPP proposes to remove a service area, EOHHS will make its best efforts to use its service area exception process to help current enrollees in these service areas so they do not need to change health plans unless they want to.

## **EOHHS Review**

In reviewing an ACPP's proposal to add or remove service areas, EOHHS may approve, disapprove, or require modification, in whole or in part, of the ACPP's proposal. EOHHS will use reasonable judgment to determine whether the proposed additions or removals will support the ACO Program's goals, be in members' best interest, and meet EOHHS's needs. In making its decision, EOHHS may consider factors that include, but are not limited to, the following.

- Impact on enrollees
- Impact on enrollment choices for enrollees
- Impact on network adequacy
- The ACPP's plans for notifying affected parties
- Overall ACPP geographic penetration in the Commonwealth

EOHHS may contact an ACPP to clarify any information submitted in response to this bulletin.

## **Submission Process**

### ***Part 1: All Submissions***

An ACPP proposing to add or remove service areas effective January 1, 2027, must submit a complete proposal to EOHHS by 4 p.m. May 29, 2026. See "Submission Information."

An ACPP must provide the requested information using forms provided by EOHHS. An ACPP must contact its MassHealth contract manager to request fillable versions of these forms.

Submissions must come from the party holding the ACPP contract with EOHHS (referred to in the Contract as the Contractor).

### ***Part 2: Service Area Additions***

A complete proposal to add a service area includes the following.

#### **A. Service Area (SA) Additions Request Form**

The ACPP must complete the Service Area (SA) Additions Request Form, which must include individual responses for each service area the ACPP is proposing to add. The ACPP may submit up to five service area addition requests using one form. If the ACPP is proposing to add more than five service areas, it must submit an additional request form.

#### **B. Geo-access Report Forms**

#### **C. Provider List Forms**

#### **D. Response to Managed Care Entity Bulletin 145 (if applicable)**

If adding a new service area corresponds with adding PCPs to the ACPP's provider network, the ACPP must also submit a response to Managed Care Entity Bulletin 145 as described under

“Overview.” The ACPP must confirm this submission on the Service Area (SA) Additions Request Form.

### **Part 3: Service Area Removals**

A complete proposal to remove a service area includes the following.

#### **A. Service Area (SA) Removals Request Form**

The ACPP must complete the Service Area (SA) Removals Request Form, which must include individual responses for each service area, listed in Appendix F of the Contract, that the ACPP is proposing to remove. The ACPP may submit up to five service area removal requests using one form. If the ACPP is proposing to remove more than five service areas, it must submit an additional request form.

#### **B. Geo-access Report Forms**

As specified in the Service Area (SA) Removals Request Form, the ACPP must submit the Geo-access Report Forms only if removing the service area would also result in other changes to its provider network (such as removing other providers, besides PCPs, from the ACPP’s provider network).

#### **C. Response to Managed Care Entity Bulletin 145 (if applicable)**

If removing a service area corresponds with removing PCPs from the ACPP’s provider network, the ACPP must also submit a response to Managed Care Entity Bulletin 145 as described under “Overview.” The ACPP must confirm this submission in the Service Area (SA) Removals Request Form.

### **Process Questions**

An ACPP with questions about the process described in this bulletin must send the questions to [aco.program@mass.gov](mailto:aco.program@mass.gov) by May 1, 2026. An ACPP must copy its MassHealth contract manager on any emails. EOHHS will review questions and may prepare written responses that it determines to be of general interest. EOHHS will also reserve time during forthcoming ACO office hours to address any questions.

### **Submission Information**

An ACPP that wants to add or remove service areas must email the information specified above no later than 4 p.m. May 29, 2026, to [aco.program@mass.gov](mailto:aco.program@mass.gov), with the subject line “[ACPP Name] Proposed Service Area Additions/Removals Submission.”

### **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?

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

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