



**MassHealth**  
**Managed Care Entity Bulletin 15**  
**May 2019**

**TO:** Accountable Care Partnership Plans

**FROM:** Daniel Tsai, Assistant Secretary for MassHealth 

**RE:** **Accountable Care Partnership Plans—Service Area Additions Effective January 1, 2020**

### **Overview**

This bulletin explains how Accountable Care Partnership Plans (ACPPs) may add new Service Areas, as defined in their Accountable Care Partnership Plan Contract with the Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS) (the Contract), to their current list of Service Areas as set forth in Appendix F of the Contract. Proposals to add Service Areas are due at **4 p.m. on Monday, June 3, 2019**. The effective date of any approved additions to ACPPs' Service Areas will be either (1) on or about July 1, 2019, or (2) on or about January 1, 2020. An ACPP may be approved for a July 1, 2019 effective date if it demonstrates that it currently meets all applicable Contract requirements for proposed Service Areas, including the access and availability requirements set forth in Section 2.9. of the Contract, or demonstrates clearly that it can meet the requirements without significant challenges by July 1, 2019. All proposed additions approved by EOHHS shall be made effective through an amendment to the contract between EOHHS and the ACCP.

By providing this opportunity, EOHHS intends to support and further the goals of the MassHealth Accountable Care Organization (ACO) Program, which remains focused on delivering integrated behavioral and physical health services, care management, and improved member experiences.

### **Proposal and Process Details**

ACPPs must provide information in the order in which it appears in this bulletin and limit the response to a total of five pages. Required attachments do not count toward the page limit. In some cases, ACPPs must provide the required information in a form and format provided by EOHHS. In those cases, ACPPs must use the templates provided by EOHHS. Submissions must come from the party holding the Contract with EOHHS (known as the Contractor in the Contract).

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**Proposal and Process Details (cont.)**

**ACPP submissions to add new Service Areas must include the following information:**

- A. An attachment listing the Service Areas that the ACPP proposes to add, using the form and format provided by EOHHS. An ACPP's list of proposed new Service Areas must be final at the time of submission and may not be changed unless requested by EOHHS.
- B. For each Service Area proposed, an estimate of the number of members the ACPP expects to enroll. This should include a description of how the estimate was made.
- C. The following information about the ACPP's current and anticipated provider network:
  1. An attachment listing the names of all providers that the ACPP is currently contracted with. The list of current providers must be grouped by provider type, in a form and format provided by EOHHS. In the alternative, the ACPP may choose to submit the names of all providers with which the ACPP is contracted located within 60 minutes or 60 miles of each Service Area the ACPP proposes to add, organized by Service Area, in a form and format provided by EOHHS.
  2. For each proposed Service Area, the ACPP must indicate whether it is relying on its current provider network to satisfy all applicable Contract requirements, including access and availability requirements set forth in Section 2.9 of the Contract, in each proposed Service Area.
    - a. If the ACPP is relying on its existing provider network, the ACPP must provide, as an attachment, its current Provider Network Geographic Access Report demonstrating compliance with the requirements in Section 2.9.C of the Contract, in a form and format provided by EOHHS.
    - b. If the ACPP is not relying on its existing provider network, and the ACPP intends to pursue additional contracts with providers to satisfy all applicable Contract requirements, including access and availability requirements set forth in Section 2.9 of the Contract, the ACPP must provide the following:
      - i. an attachment listing the names of all providers with which the ACPP intends to pursue a provider contract. This information must be grouped by provider type and presented in a form and format provided by EOHHS;

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**Proposal and Process Details (*cont.*)**

- ii. the ACPP's strategy for pursuing such provider contracts, such that the result is the ACPP satisfies all applicable Contract requirements, including access and availability requirements set forth in Section 2.9 of the Contract, in each proposed Service Area;
  - iii. attachments of letters of intent, if any, between the ACPP and any provider with which the ACPP is pursuing a provider contract, grouped by Provider type and proposed Service Area; and
  - iv. an attachment of the ACPP's anticipated Provider Network Geographic Access Report demonstrating compliance with the requirements in Section 2.9. of the Contract. This Report must be in a form and format provided by EOHHS, and completed as if the ACPP is successful in contracting with all of the providers the ACPP lists in response to Section C.2.b.i of this bulletin.
- D. Any challenges the Contractor anticipates in meeting applicable Contract requirements, such as those in Section 2.7 or 2.9 of the Contract, in any of the proposed Service Areas, and the steps the ACPP plans to take to mitigate such challenges.
- E. A description of how the ACPP will continue to assess its ongoing compliance with access and availability requirements in Section 2.9 of the Contract, in all Service Areas (current and proposed).
- F. A statement as to whether the ACPP is requesting the proposed Service Areas be effective on or about July 1, 2019 or on or about January 1, 2020. An ACPP may be approved for a July 1, 2019 effective date if it demonstrates that it currently meets all applicable Contract requirements for proposed Service Areas, including the access and availability requirements set forth in Section 2.9. of the Contract, or demonstrates clearly that they can meet the requirements without significant challenges, by July 1, 2019. If requesting a July 1, 2019 effective date for any proposed Service Areas, the ACPP shall provide an explanation as to why such an expedited date is in the best interest of the ACPP's enrollees.

**EOHHS Review**

In reviewing an ACPP's request to add Service Areas, EOHHS may approve, disapprove, or require modification, in whole or in part, of the ACPP's request based on its reasonable judgment as to whether the proposed additions will support the goals of the ACO program, be in the best interests of members, and meet the needs of EOHHS. In making such determination, EOHHS may consider factors that include but are not limited to:

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### **EOHHS Review (cont.)**

- Impact on members;
- Impact on enrollment choices for members;
- Impact on network adequacy;
- The ACPP's plans for notifying impacted parties; and
- Overall ACPP geographic penetration in the Commonwealth.

ACPPs that currently meet all applicable Contract requirements for proposed Service Areas, or demonstrates clearly that it can meet the requirements without significant challenges by July 1, 2019, may be approved for the July 1 start date at EOHHS's determination. ACPPs that need more time to meet all applicable Contract requirements, including access and availability requirements set forth in Section 2.9 of the Contract, may be approved for a January 1, 2020 start date at EOHHS's determination.

### **Submission Deadline and Questions**

ACPPs that wish to add Service Areas must respond with the information specified above by **4 p.m. on Monday, June 3, 2019**, via email, to the ACO Program email box (ACO.Program@state.ma.us) with the subject line: "[ACPP Name] Proposed Service Area Additions Submission."

ACPPs may submit written questions concerning the process to the ACO Program email box (ACO.Program@state.ma.us) by **4 p.m. on Monday, May 20, 2019**. EOHHS will review questions and may prepare written responses to questions that EOHHS determines to be of general interest. EOHHS also may accept questions during ACO office hours.

### **MassHealth Website**

This bulletin is available on the MassHealth website at [www.mass.gov/masshealth-provider-bulletins](http://www.mass.gov/masshealth-provider-bulletins). To [sign up](#) to receive email alerts when MassHealth issues new bulletins and transmittal letters, send a blank email to [join-masshealth-provider-pubs@listserv.state.ma.us](mailto:join-masshealth-provider-pubs@listserv.state.ma.us). No text in the body or subject line is needed.