




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

MassHealth
Managed Care Entity Bulletin 23
April 2020

TO: One Care Plans, Senior Care Organizations and Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly Organizations Participating in MassHealth

FROM: Amanda Cassel Kraft, Acting Medicaid Director 

RE: **Temporary Rate Increases Due to COVID-19 National Emergency**

Background

MassHealth's mission is to improve the health outcomes of our diverse members and their families by providing access to integrated health care services that sustainably and equitably promote health, well-being, independence and quality of life. In support of that mission, MassHealth provides broad coverage of medically necessary health care services to its members. MassHealth partners with a wide variety of service providers, including vital safety net providers, in order to offer its members access.

In light of the state of emergency declared in the Commonwealth due to the 2019 novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak, MassHealth is disbursing critical stabilization funding to support health care providers impacted by and responding to COVID-19. These providers are on the front lines of caring for MassHealth members. MassHealth has temporarily increased fee-for-service rates for impacted providers as part of the stabilization efforts. Additionally, through this bulletin, MassHealth is directing One Care plans, Senior Care Organizations (SCOs), and Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) organizations (referred to here collectively as "integrated care plans") to institute temporary rate increases as set forth in this bulletin. These directed payments will ensure that providers receive this crucial stabilization funding for serving members enrolled in integrated care plans. MassHealth anticipates updating the integrated care plans' capitation payment rates to support the increased provider rates.

MassHealth anticipates providing additional guidance regarding more financial stabilization funding through the integrated care plans, including additional guidance on Adult Day Health payments.

Temporary Rate Increase

MassHealth is directing integrated care plans to increase payment rates temporarily to providers of the services specified in the table below. The rate increases apply to services delivered in-person and via telehealth, as applicable. The integrated care plan must apply the percentage increases indicated in the table to the integrated care plan's current contracted rates with providers, regardless of whether or not those rates are the same as the MassHealth fee-for-service rates.

If an integrated care plan has sub-capitated or Alternative Payment Methodology (APM) arrangements with providers, the sub-capitated or APM payments to providers should be increased by the equivalent of the rate increases that would be required for fee for service payments. Plans shall not subject the required rate increases to any withhold arrangement with providers; the plans shall ensure that providers receive the full rate increases in payments made for the services listed in the table below.

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MassHealth will amend the plans' contracts as needed to reflect these rate increase requirements.

Rate Increase By Service

Medicaid Covered Service	Increase	Rate Increase Effective Date	Rate Increase End Date	One Care / SCO	PACE
Home Health Services (see Appendix A for the codes subject to the rate increase)	10% rate increase	4/1/2020	7/31/2020	✓	✓
Personal Care Attendant (PCA) Services / Personal Care Services / Personal Assistance Services (see Appendix B)	10% rate increase	4/1/2020	7/31/2020	✓	✓

Additional Requirements for Temporary Rate Increases

Plans must implement these rate increases and begin disbursing funds to providers by April 30, 2020. Integrated care plans must pay the increased rate for services delivered on or after the rate increase effective date in the table above, including claims submitted prior to the effective date of this bulletin. All rate increases are effective through the end date in the table above. All encounter file claim paid amounts with dates of service between the rate increase effective date and the rate increase end date must reflect the specified rate increases no later than June 1, 2020.

Integrated care plans shall certify on a monthly basis in a form and format specified by MassHealth to compliance with the rate increase requirements described in this bulletin. Such certification shall include certification that the plan has made timely payments which include these required increases, with no offsets to provider payments through withholds, sub-capitated payment arrangements, or other APMs.

MassHealth Website

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Questions

If you have any questions about the information in this bulletin, please contact the MassHealth Customer Service Center at (800) 841-2900, email your inquiry to providersupport@mahealth.net, or fax your inquiry to (617) 988-8974.

Appendix A
Codes for Certain Home Health Services

To support Home Health providers during the COVID-19 emergency, for dates of service from April 1, 2020 through July 31, 2020, MassHealth is directing integrated care plans to increase payment rates temporarily by 10% above the plan's current contracted rates for the following Medicaid covered codes.

Code	Modifier	Service Description
G0299		Services of an RN in home health setting (one through 30 calendar days)
G0299	UD	Services of an RN in home health setting (31+ calendar days)
G0299	U3	Nursing care visit for temporary emergency PCA services
G0300		Services of an LPN in home health setting (one through 30 calendar days)
G0300	UD	Services of an LPN in home health setting (31+ calendar days)
G0300	U3	Nursing care visit for temporary emergency PCA services
G0493		Skilled services of a registered nurse (RN) for the observation and assessment of the patient's condition (PA required prior to start of care)
T1502		Administration of oral, intramuscular, and/or subcutaneous medication by health care agency/professional per visit (RN or LPN) (Use only for Medication Administration visit.)
T1503		Administration of medication other than oral, intramuscular, and/or subcutaneous medication by health care agency/professional per visit (RN or LPN) (Use only for Medication Administration visit.)
G0156		Services of Home Health Aide in the home health setting
G0156	UD	Services of home health aide in the home health setting (ADL support) (15 minute units) (PA required prior to start of care)
G0151		Services of Physical Therapist in the home health setting
G0152		Services of Occupational Therapist in the home health setting
G0153		Services of Speech-Language Pathologist in the home health setting
99509		Home health aide visit for temporary emergency PCA services

Appendix B
Certain Personal Care Attendant (PCA) Services / Personal Care Services / Personal Assistance Services

To support personal care assistance providers, including PCAs, providers of personal assistance services, and personal care workers who are paid at a rate tied to the collectively bargained PCA rate, during the COVID-19 emergency, for dates of service from April 1, 2020, through July 31, 2020, MassHealth is directing integrated care plans to increase payment rates temporarily by 10% above the plan's current contracted rates.