



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

MassHealth
Managed Care Entity Bulletin 26
May 2020

TO: MassHealth Accountable Care Partnership Plans, Managed Care Organizations, and MassHealth's Behavioral Health Vendor

FROM: Amanda Cassel Kraft, Acting Medicaid Director

RE: Investments in Community Based Acute Treatment and Intensive Community Based Acute Treatment in Support of Network Management Strategy

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.

The Department of Mental Health Expedited Psychiatric Inpatient Admission (EPIA) sub-group focusing on Community Based Acute Treatment (CBAT) and Intensive Community Based Acute Treatment (ICBAT)—with representation from various state agencies, providers, and payers—recently identified challenges with the delivery of CBAT and ICBAT in the Commonwealth. These challenges included:

- The closure of CBAT and ICBAT units or reduction in bed capacity, with providers citing a lack of financial sustainability as a rationale for reduction or closure;
- Variability of bed capacity across the Commonwealth, with insufficient capacity to meet population needs in certain areas;
- The impact of CBAT and ICBAT capacity on statewide Emergency Department (ED) boarding trends; and
- Variability of CBAT and ICBAT providers in screening for substance use disorders, conducting case management, and discharge/transition planning.

Additional challenges have emerged for CBAT and ICBAT providers given the 2019 novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak and state of emergency.

The Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS) is committed to supporting CBAT and ICBAT providers as part of ongoing efforts to enhance the continuum of behavioral health services for MassHealth members and to respond to the COVID-19 emergency. In Rate Year 2020, EOHHS will invest in CBAT and ICBAT services delivered through Managed Care Organizations (MCOs), Accountable Care Partnership Plans (ACPPs), and the MassHealth behavioral health vendor. Specifically, EOHHS has included a targeted increase in the MCOs', ACPPs', and the behavioral health vendor's 2020 capitation payment rates to fund strategic investments by the plans to enhance the capacity and delivery of CBAT and ICBAT services to MassHealth members. This

MassHealth
Managed Care Entity Bulletin 26
May 2020
Page 2 of 3

will include a focus on supporting CBAT and ICBAT providers during and after the COVID-19 state of emergency.

Pursuant to Section 2.8.C.11 of the ACPP and MCO contracts and Section 3.6.C. of the behavioral health vendor's contract, this bulletin sets forth the requirements for MCOs, ACPPs, and MassHealth's behavioral health vendor to identify and implement the improvements needed in their CBAT and ICBAT networks.

CBAT and ICBAT Network Analysis

ACPPs, MCOs and MassHealth's behavioral health vendor must analyze their CBAT and ICBAT network and identify the following:

- The number of CBAT and ICBAT units and number of beds currently in the plan's network;
- CBAT and ICBAT network providers operating below their licensed capacity;
- CBAT and ICBAT network providers with recent closures or at imminent risk of closures (including closure of entire units or reduction in number of beds);
- CBAT and ICBAT network providers whose capacity has been impacted by the COVID-19 state of emergency.

CBAT and ICBAT 2020 Network Management Strategic Plan

Each MCO, ACPP, and the behavioral health vendor must develop a network management strategic plan describing how they will support and improve the delivery of CBAT and ICBAT services among their network providers, using the Rate Year 2020 capitation investment. The plan should include explicit support for CBAT and ICBAT providers during the COVID-19 state of emergency. These network management strategic plans must:

- Identify the provider(s) to which the MCO, ACPP, or behavioral health vendor will be targeting investments;
- For each provider identified, describe the nature of the investment (e.g., rate increase, quality improvement payment, etc.) and total amount of the investment for which the provider may be eligible based on utilization or performance assumptions. Investments should be implemented strategically and need not be distributed evenly across all network providers;
- Implement investments no later than June 1, 2020, and continuing through the end of the contract year on December 31, 2020;
- Demonstrate that the total value of investments constitutes a 20% increase over the plan's Rate Year 2019 spending on CBAT and ICBAT services.

MCOs, ACPPs, and the behavioral health vendor must submit their network management strategic plans to their EOHHS contract managers by May 22, 2020, for review and approval. In addition, MCOs, ACPPs, and the behavioral health vendor must report monthly, beginning June 1, 2020, through the end of the contract year, to their contract manager on progress towards implementing the network management strategic plan. MCOs, ACPPs, and the behavioral health vendor must submit an additional report by December 31, 2020, in accordance with Appendix A of the MCO and ACPP contracts and Appendix E-1 of the behavioral health vendor's contract.

**MassHealth
Managed Care Entity Bulletin 26
May 2020
Page 3 of 3**

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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.