



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

MassHealth
Managed Care Entity Bulletin 34
June 2020

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

FROM: Amanda Cassel Kraft, Acting Medicaid Director 

RE: **Temporary Extension of Coverage for Early Intervention Services**

Background

Early Intervention (EI) provides comprehensive, integrated services to facilitate the developmental progress of eligible MassHealth members between the ages of birth and three years old. To help minimize potential disruption in services during the COVID-19 public health crisis, and in alignment with guidance provided by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education ([COVID Special Education Technical Assistance Advisory 2020-2](#)), MassHealth is temporarily extending eligibility for EI under 130 CR 440.403(A)(3) to provide continuity of care until a child can effectively transition to appropriate school-based services.

In light of the 2019 novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak, MassHealth is directing Managed Care Organizations (MCOs) and Accountable Care Partnership Plans (ACPPs) to pay for the provision of EI services to eligible children who turn three between March 15, and August 31, 2020, to provide a “bridge” between EI and appropriate Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE) services. As set forth in this bulletin, MCOs and ACPPs must cover services provided between June 1, and October 15, 2020, for those three-year-olds who have been referred for a ECSE evaluation, and thus are considered to be in the process of transferring from the EI program into services provided by their local educational authority (LEA).

Temporary Extension of Coverage for Early Intervention Services

MassHealth is temporarily extending eligibility for EI services under 130 CMR 440.403(A)(3). Eligible children who reach the age of three between March 15, and August 31, 2020, and who meet one of the following criteria will be considered to be in the process of transferring from the program for the purposes of 130 CMR 440.403(A)(3):

- Have been referred to their LEA to be evaluated for federal IDEA Part B (Special Education) services but have not yet been evaluated to determine eligibility for Part B services due to delays related to the COVID-19 public health emergency; or
- Have a signed IEP and continued EI services are necessary to support the transition to Early Childhood Special Education.

Early Intervention providers should continue to provide services to members who meet the criteria set forth in 130 CMR 440.403, as extended by the eligibility criteria above, until the LEA is able to complete a comprehensive Part B eligibility evaluation and the LEA determines that the child has successfully transitioned to ECSE or until October 15, 2020, whichever is sooner. EI providers must ensure there is no duplication of services with services provided by LEAs during the transition period.

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Rates of Payment

MCOs and ACPPs should pay for covered EI services for members that receive services as a result of the extended eligibility outlined in this bulletin at their current EI contracted rates. Certain services may be paid at an increased rate in light of the state of emergency as described in [Managed Care Entity Bulletin 24](#), as updated by [Managed Care Entity Bulletin 32](#).

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Questions

If you have 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.