



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

MassHealth
Managed Care Entity Bulletin 49
December 2020

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

FROM: Daniel Tsai, Assistant Secretary for MassHealth

RE: Flu Vaccine Access and Birth Control Supply Flexibility

Applicable Managed Care Entities

- Accountable Care Partnership Plans (ACPPs)
- Managed Care Organizations (MCOs)

Background and Overview

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.

In response to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) outbreak, MassHealth has announced certain policy changes to provide greater flexibility in providing care to MassHealth members. This bulletin contains changes to the out-of-network flu vaccine coverage and guidance on birth control supplies for Accountable Care Partnership Plans (ACPPs) and Managed Care Organizations (MCOs).

Education about and Access to Flu Vaccines to include Out-of-Network

MCOs and ACPPs shall continue to educate members on the importance of flu vaccines. Plans shall provide information to members on how to locate and obtain flu vaccines from in-network providers.

With this bulletin, EOHHS is directing MCOs and ACPPs to pay for flu vaccines administered by out-of-network providers for the duration of the COVID-19 state of emergency. This will further promote access to flu vaccines for MassHealth members. Out-of-network flu vaccine claims should not be denied and should be paid at comparable in-network rates or the equivalent of MassHealth rates. ACPPs and MCOs are required to cover out-of-network flu vaccines in order to ensure access for MassHealth members regardless of network requirements.

Birth Control Supply Flexibility

For the duration of the COVID-19 state of emergency, MassHealth will be allowing flexibilities for the provision of drugs used for family planning to MassHealth managed care enrollees.

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In accordance with Pharmacy Facts 157, MassHealth is requiring MCOs and ACPPs to cover the dispensing of up to a 365-day supply of drugs used for family planning if requested by a MassHealth member or the member's prescriber as long as sufficient quantity remains on the prescription to support the quantity being filled. MassHealth anticipates extending this requirement permanently consistent with the amendments to 130 CMR 406.000: Pharmacy Services proposed on November 29, 2019 and currently pending final promulgation.

Additional Information

For the latest MA-specific information, visit: www.mass.gov/resource/information-on-the-outbreak-of-coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19.

The latest Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidance for healthcare professionals is available at: www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/index.html.

MassHealth Website

This bulletin is available on the MassHealth Provider Bulletins web page.

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. No text in the body or subject line is needed.

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.