



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

MassHealth
Managed Care Entity Bulletin 50
December 2020

TO: Managed Care Entities and PACE Organizations Participating in MassHealth

FROM: Daniel Tsai, Assistant Secretary for MassHealth 

RE: **Coverage and Payment for Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Vaccine Administration, Testing, and Monoclonal Antibody Product Infusion**

Applicable Managed Care Entities and PACE Organizations

- Accountable Care Partnership Plans (ACPPs)
- Managed Care Organizations (MCOs)
- MassHealth's behavioral health vendor
- One Care Plans
- Senior Care Organizations (SCOs)
- Program of All-inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) Organizations

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. 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 2019 novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak, MassHealth is implementing policies to support members and health care providers impacted by and responding to COVID-19. Through this bulletin, MassHealth is directing Accountable Care Partnership Plans (ACPPs), Managed Care Organizations (MCOs), as well as Senior Care Organizations (SCOs) and One Care plans only to the extent described in the paragraph immediately below including for enrollees who are not dually-eligible for MassHealth and Medicare (referred to collectively here as "managed care plans"), to institute certain policies related to COVID-19. Program of All-inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) organizations should also follow the guidance in this bulletin as described in the paragraph immediately below.

One Care Plans, SCOs, and PACE organizations should first follow guidance provided by Medicare on these topics for enrollees with Medicare, including billing and coding instructions. SCOs, and PACE organizations must follow the requirements in this bulletin for Medicaid-only enrollees.

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Payment for COVID-19 Vaccine Administration to Authorized Providers

As explained in All Provider Bulletin 304, the first COVID-19 vaccine product received Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) on December 11, 2020, and EUA for a second product was received on December 18, 2020. MassHealth will cover these vaccines for members as described in All Provider Bulletin 304. There is no member cost sharing for any vaccines. All Provider Bulletin 304 also describes applicable providers, MassHealth rates of payment, service codes, and billing instructions, along with other details about MassHealth's coverage of COVID-19 vaccines. Managed care plans, as defined in this bulletin, and PACE organizations must conform their coverage policies, including rates of payments effective January 1, 2021, to match those in All Provider Bulletin 304 when providing these vaccines as Medicaid services.

Further, managed care plans and PACE organizations shall continue to educate members on the importance of the COVID-19 vaccine. Plans and PACE organizations shall provide information to members on how to locate and obtain the vaccine from in-network providers. In addition, with this bulletin and consistent with federal guidance, MassHealth is directing managed care plans and PACE organizations to pay for COVID-19 vaccines administered by out-of-network providers for the duration of the COVID-19 state of emergency. This will further promote access for MassHealth members. Out-of-network vaccine claims should not be denied and should be paid for as specified in this bulletin. Managed care plans and PACE organizations are required to cover out-of-network COVID-19 vaccines in order to ensure access for MassHealth members regardless of network requirements.

Pharmacy Billing

All Provider Bulletin 304 describes MassHealth requirements for pharmacy billing as it relates to COVID-19 vaccines. Managed care plans, as defined in this Bulletin, and PACE organizations must conform their coverage policies, including rates of payments effective January 1, 2021, to match those in All Provider Bulletin 304 when providing these vaccines as Medicaid services.

Long-Term Care Partnership

The federal government is partnering with CVS and Walgreens to offer on-site COVID-19 vaccination services for residents and employees of nursing facilities. The vaccines will be distributed to CVS and Walgreens who will administer the vaccines and bill MassHealth and managed care plans, as defined in this bulletin, and PACE organizations for the vaccine administration for MassHealth members living or working in those facilities.

Managed care plans, as defined in this bulletin, and PACE organizations must conform their coverage policies, including rates of payments effective January 1, 2021, to match those in All Provider Bulletin 304 when such vaccine administrations are Medicaid services.

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Payment for COVID-19 Monoclonal Antibody Product Infusion

All Provider Bulletin 304 describes MassHealth requirements for coverage of COVID-19 monoclonal antibody product infusion, including but not limited to service codes, billing instructions, and rates of payment. Managed care plans, as defined in this bulletin, and PACE organizations must conform their coverage policies, including rates of payments effective January 1, 2021, to match those in All Provider Bulletin 304 when providing these vaccines as Medicaid services.

Coverage of COVID-19 Laboratory Analysis Codes

All Provider Bulletin 304 describes new COVID-19 laboratory analysis codes that MassHealth will cover, as well as related information such as applicable providers and rates of payment. Managed care plans, as defined in this bulletin, and PACE organizations must conform their coverage policies, including rates of payments effective January 1, 2021, to match those in All Provider Bulletin 304 when providing these services as Medicaid services.

Coverage of Certain COVID-19 Specimen Collection Services and New Laboratory Analysis Codes

All Provider Bulletin 304 clarifies previous MassHealth guidance and further explains MassHealth coverage policies for COVID-19 specimen collection services, in addition to other related billable services. Managed care plans, as defined in this bulletin, and PACE organizations must conform their coverage policies, including rates of payments effective January 1, 2021, to match those in All Provider Bulletin 304 when providing these services as Medicaid services.

Payment for High Throughput Testing

Finally, All Provider Bulletin 304 describes anticipated changes in MassHealth coverage policies, includes rates of payment, related to high throughput COVID-19 testing effective January 1, 2021. Managed care plans, as defined in this bulletin, and PACE organizations must conform their coverage policies, including rates of payments, to match those in All Provider Bulletin 304 when providing these services as Medicaid services.

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.

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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. Managed care plans should submit written questions and comments concerning this bulletin to their contract managers.