



MassHealth
Managed Care Entity Bulletin 70
October 2021

TO: Managed Care Entities Participating in MassHealth

FROM: Amanda Cassel Kraft, Acting Assistant Secretary for MassHealth

RE: **Temporary Extension of Flexibilities to Permit Separate Payment for Specimen Collection**

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

Background

Through [All Provider Bulletin 319](#) and its predecessor bulletins and [Managed Care Entity Bulletin 66](#) and its predecessor bulletins, MassHealth implemented numerous flexibilities to allow providers to separately bill and receive payment for COVID-19 specimen collection services and other billable services. By the terms of All Provider Bulletin 319 and Managed Care Entity Bulletin 66, these flexibilities were scheduled to expire on September 15, 2021. Through this bulletin, MassHealth is extending the COVID-19 specimen collection-related flexibilities described in All Provider Bulletin 319 and Managed Care Entity Bulletin 66 through December 31, 2021, after which they will expire. Except as provided herein, or in other guidance published by MassHealth, the remainder of All Provider Bulletin 319 and Managed Care Entity Bulletin 66 remain unchanged.

In concert with All Provider Bulletin 325 and through this bulletin, MassHealth is directing managed care entities to institute certain policies related to COVID-19. The entities include accountable care partnership plans (ACPPs), managed care organizations (MCOs), senior care organizations (SCOs), and One Care plans to the extent described in the following paragraph, including for enrollees who are not dually eligible for MassHealth and Medicare (referred to collectively here as “managed care plans”). Program of All-inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) organizations should also follow the guidance in this bulletin as described in the following paragraph.

One Care Plans and SCOs should first follow guidance provided by Medicare on these topics for enrollees with Medicare, including billing and coding instructions. SCOs must follow the requirements in this bulletin for Medicaid-only enrollees. PACE organizations should follow all PACE guidance from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services on these topics, and must ensure that their coverage policies include those outlined below.

Temporary Extension of Flexibilities to Permit Separate Payment for Specimen Collection

As described in MassHealth [Managed Care Entity Bulletins 29](#), 40 and 66, MassHealth implemented numerous flexibilities to allow providers to separately bill and receive payment for COVID-19 specimen collection services, in addition to the other billable services. These requirements are largely restated in [All Provider Bulletin 325](#). Managed care plans must continue to match these requirements, as described therein, through and including December 31, 2021. PACE organizations must continue to cover COVID-19 specimen collection services, in addition to other related billable services, for all PACE participants, through and including December 31, 2021.

Additional Information

For the latest Massachusetts-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.

[Sign up](#) to receive email alerts when MassHealth issues new bulletins and transmittal letters.

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.