



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

MassHealth
Managed Care Entity Bulletin 75
November 2021

TO: Managed Care Entities Participating in MassHealth

FROM: Amanda Cassel Kraft, Assistant Secretary for MassHealth

RE: 90 Day Suspension of Prior Authorization for Previously Scheduled Surgery, and Behavioral Health and Non-Behavioral Health Inpatient Care

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

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.

This bulletin directs Accountable Care Partnership Plans (ACPPs), Managed Care Organizations (MCOs), MassHealth's behavioral health vendor, One Care plans, and Senior Care Organizations (SCOs) (collectively, "managed care plans") to suspend prior authorization (PA) requirements for previously-scheduled surgeries. PA requirements are also suspended for behavioral health and non-behavioral health care admission to acute care, mental health hospitals, and post-acute care facilities for 90 calendar days from the issuance of this bulletin. Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) organizations must also follow the requirements set forth in this bulletin.

Suspension of Prior Authorization for Surgery, Behavioral Health, and Non-behavioral Health Care

For 90 calendar days from the issuance of this bulletin, managed care plans and PACE organizations must suspend prior authorization requirements, if any, for any scheduled surgeries, and any behavioral health or non-behavioral health admissions at acute care, mental health hospitals and post-acute care facilities. This requirement also applies to behavioral health 24-hour

**MassHealth
Managed Care Entity Bulletin 75
November 2021
Page 2 of 2**

levels of care, including, but not limited to, inpatient behavioral health services and Intensive Community-based Acute Treatment (ICBAT)/Community-based Acute Treatment (CBAT). Managed care plans and PACE organizations may still require provider registration of member admission prior to placement or provider notification of admission following placement.

MassHealth Website

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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.