



Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Executive Office of Health and Human Services  
Office of Medicaid  
[www.mass.gov/masshealth](http://www.mass.gov/masshealth)

**MassHealth**  
**Managed Care Entity Bulletin 81**  
**January 2022**

**TO: Program of All-inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) Organizations  
Participating in MassHealth**

**FROM: Amanda Cassel Kraft, Assistant Secretary for MassHealth**

**RE: Policy Updates to Improve the PACE Enrollment Process**

**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

**PACE Enrollment Process Updates**

MassHealth is pleased to provide several policy updates to improve the PACE enrollment process. These changes are effective immediately.

**MDS-HC Submissions No Longer Required for Long-Term Care PACE Participants**

PACE participants who enter a long-term care facility no longer need their PACE program to complete a Minimum Data Set – Home Care (MDS-HC) submission because their long-term care facility will complete a Minimum Data Set 3.0 (MDS 3.0) submission.

PACE programs are still required to engage regularly with participants in long-term care facilities and continue to implement, coordinate, and monitor the plan of care for the participants, but an MDS-HC submission is no longer required while a participant resides in a long-term care facility.

**Extending the Allowable Time between Initial MDS Assessment and Enrollment**

We recognize that several factors may delay enrollment in PACE. Because of this, we are extending the time allowed between an initial MDS and enrollment into PACE. An initial MDS assessment will remain valid for a period up to **one year** from the initial assessment date. If the participant is not enrolled after that one-year period, then a new, updated assessment must be conducted to confirm the continued NHC level of care and status of safety in the community.

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**Qualification Requirement for MDS-HC Signature**

MDS-HC signatures do not need to be completed by a physician. A registered nurse can authorize and sign a completed MDS-HC assessment.

We hope that this first round of policy updates will allow your organizations to operate seamlessly and will give your participants a better experience. If you have questions or concerns you would like to address please contact Kayla King, PACE Program Manager, at [Kayla.D.King@mass.gov](mailto:Kayla.D.King@mass.gov).

**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](mailto:providersupport@mahealth.net), or fax your inquiry to (617) 988-8974.