



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

MassHealth
Managed Care Entity Bulletin 93
November 2022

TO: Accountable Care Partnership Plans, Managed Care Organizations, and the Behavioral Health Vendor Participating in MassHealth

FROM: Amanda Cassel Kraft, Assistant Secretary for MassHealth 

RE: Behavioral Health Crisis Evaluations in Emergency Departments and Inpatient Mental Health Services Rate Updates

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

As part of the Baker-Polito Administration's Roadmap for Behavioral Health Reform ("Roadmap"), MassHealth is making changes to the delivery of behavioral health crisis services in order to expand access to community-based and mobile crisis intervention and improve member experience of care. Historically, crisis assessments have been provided by Emergency Service Program (ESP) providers and Mobile Crisis Intervention (MCI) teams in both community-based settings and in emergency departments (EDs). Starting in January 2023, a statewide network of Community Behavioral Health Centers (CBHCs) will provide 24/7 community and mobile crisis intervention services, and hospitals will provide or arrange for behavioral health crisis evaluations in their EDs.

In furtherance of the requirements in MGL. c. 111 s. 51 3/4, as of January 3, 2023, hospital EDs will be required to provide or arrange for crisis evaluations for individuals presenting to the ED in a behavioral health crisis. Behavioral health crisis evaluations provided in EDs will include the initial assessments of risk, diagnosis, and treatment needs; the initial stabilization interventions; and the determination and coordination of appropriate disposition for presenting individuals. Separately, CBHCs will deliver mobile and community-based crisis evaluations, as well as follow-up care, in community-based settings for individuals experiencing a behavioral health crisis.

In addition, MassHealth is making updates to reimbursement for inpatient psychiatric treatment. Effective for dates of service on or after October 1, 2022, MassHealth is implementing a per inpatient admission rate in addition to the inpatient psychiatric per diem rate.

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This bulletin sets forth expectations for Accountable Care Partnership Plans, Managed Care Organizations, and the Behavioral Health Vendor (collectively MCEs) with respect to the delivery of crisis evaluations in EDs, including the required procedure code and minimum rate for service delivery. This bulletin also sets forth MCE expectations, criteria, and minimum rates for new per inpatient admissions payments.

Acute Hospital ED-based Behavioral Health Crisis Evaluations

Beginning on January 3, 2023, MCEs will be required to pay hospitals directly for behavioral health crisis evaluations in EDs. In addition, MCEs are required to direct hospitals to deliver ED-based behavioral health crisis evaluations in accordance with the standards set forth in Appendix I of the Acute Hospital RFA.

Previously, these evaluations were provided by and billed by ESP and MCI teams. For dates of service on or after January 3, 2023, MCEs must pay hospitals for crisis evaluation services provided in EDs, unless otherwise specified by EOHHS. Hospitals may choose to subcontract these services to appropriately trained and experienced behavioral health providers; however, whether ED-based behavioral health crisis evaluations are provided by hospital staff directly or through subcontracted providers, hospitals must submit claims for these services to plans, and plans must pay hospitals for these services. MCEs must require hospitals to use the per diem code S9485 for ED crisis evaluation services and must pay no less than \$632.08 for ED crisis evaluation services, the amount set forth in the RY23 Acute Hospital RFA. Note that this code and rate must be carved out of the Adjudicated Payment per Episode of Care (APEC), if plans utilize an APEC for payment to hospitals, and is separate and distinct from other billing mechanisms in place (e.g., billing for facility fees, billing for professional services rendered in the ED, etc.).

Acute and Psychiatric Hospital Inpatient Mental Health Services – Per Inpatient Admission Payments

Effective for dates of service on or after October 1, 2022, MassHealth is implementing a per inpatient admission rate in addition to the inpatient psychiatric per diem rate for each admission to a DMH-licensed bed under both the Acute and Psychiatric Hospital RY23 RFAs and Contracts. The per inpatient admission rate is determined based on criteria met upon admission and each admission may meet only one category, as set forth in the table below. Effective October 1, 2022, MCEs must pay a per inpatient admission rate (in addition to a per diem rate) for each inpatient mental health admission meeting the category-specific criteria described below, at a rate that is no less than the corresponding payment rates set forth for each category below.

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	(1) Category A1 Per Inpatient Admission Rate; OR	(2) Category A2 Per Inpatient Admission Rate; OR	(3) Category A3 Per Inpatient Admission Rate
(A) Weekday Admission - Patient admission occurs Monday to Friday; OR	The member admission does not meet eligibility criteria for either Category 2 or Category 3 Per Inpatient Admission Rates.	<p>The member admission meets at least one of the following criteria:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. the member is aged 14 years old to 17 years old (inclusive); or 2. the member has a diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder or Intellection Disability Disorder (ASD/IDD); or 3. the member is homeless as indicated by diagnosis code Z59.0x, or housing unstable as indicated by diagnosis code Z59.1 or Z59.819; or 4. in the case of an acute hospital admission, the member is admitted to a hospital identified by CHIA as a teaching hospital; AND 5. the member admission does not meet eligibility criteria for the Category 3 Per Inpatient Admission Rate. 	<p>The member admission meets at least one of the following criteria:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. the member is aged 13 years old or below; or 2. the member is aged 65 years old or above; or 3. the member is affiliated with one or more of the following Massachusetts human service agencies (as indicated in MMIS): DDS, DCF, DMH, or DYS.

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	(1) Category B1 Per Inpatient Admission Rate; OR	(2) Category B2 Per Inpatient Admission Rate; OR	(3) Category B3 Per Inpatient Admission Rate
(B) Weekend Admission - Patient admission occurs Saturday or Sunday	The member admission does not meet eligibility criteria for either Category 2 or Category 3 Per Inpatient Admission Rates.	<p>The member admission meets at least one of the following criteria:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. the member is aged 14 years old to 17 years old (inclusive); or 2. the member has a diagnosis of ASD/IDD; or 3. the member is homeless as indicated by diagnosis code Z59.0x, or housing unstable as indicated by diagnosis code Z59.1 or Z59.819; or 4. in the case of an acute hospital admission, the member is admitted to a hospital identified by CHIA as a teaching hospital; AND 5. the member admission does not meet eligibility criteria for the Category 3 Per Inpatient Admission Rate. 	<p>The member admission meets at least one of the following criteria:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. the member is aged 13 years old or below; or 2. the member is aged 65 years old or above; or 3. the member is affiliated with one or more of the following Massachusetts human service agencies (as indicated in MMIS): DDS, DCF, DMH, or DYS.

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The corresponding minimum payment rates are as follows for inpatient behavioral health services described in the chart above:

- (1) Category A1 rate - \$350 per admission
- (2) Category B1 rate - \$1,000 per admission
- (3) Category A2 rate - \$1,850 per admission
- (4) Category B2 rate - \$2,500 per admission
- (5) Category A3 rate - \$2,975 per admission
- (6) Category B3 rate - \$3,625 per admission

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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.