

Requirement for Licensed Independent Clinical Social Workers to Apply to MassHealth

Section 6401 of the Affordable Care Act requires that, if MassHealth requires a service to be ordered, referred or prescribed, the provider who ordered, referred or prescribed the service must be enrolled with MassHealth, at least as a non-billing provider, in order for the claim for the service to be payable. “Non-billing providers” are also known as Ordering, Referring and Prescribing (“ORP”) providers.

Pursuant to Massachusetts state law (M.G.L. c. 112 § 131), licensed independent clinical social workers (“LICSWs”) **must** apply to enroll in MassHealth, at a minimum as a non-billing provider, in order to **obtain and maintain** Massachusetts state licensure. This requirement applies to **all** Massachusetts licensed LICSWs, including practicing and non-practicing LICSWs and Massachusetts licensed LICSWs who do not reside in Massachusetts. LICSWs who are already enrolled with MassHealth do not need to take further action with respect to this requirement.

LICSWs who wish to apply to enroll in MassHealth as a non-billing provider must use the non-billing provider application. The non-billing provider application and required contract can be found at [ACA Section 6401 ORP Requirements](#) on Mass.gov. Non-billing providers are not permitted to submit claims to MassHealth.

LICSWs may enroll in MassHealth as one of the following:

1. A billing provider, also known as a Fee-for-Service (FFS) provider, which is a MassHealth-enrolled provider who:
 - a. submits claims to MassHealth; and/or
 - b. provides services to MassHealth members as part of a MassHealth-enrolled group practice.
2. A non-billing provider, also known as an Ordering, Referring, and Prescribing provider.

All questions regarding the application process should be directed to the MassHealth Customer Service for Providers at 1.800.841.2900 and TTY services at 1.800.497.4648

Important points to know:

- All applications are reviewed through MassHealth. The licensing board does not review or approve MassHealth provider applications.
- To Apply:
 - All non-billing providers may print out and return the application and provider contract that can be found at [ACA Section 6401 ORP Requirements](#).
 - All LICSWs who wish to apply to be MassHealth FFS providers should visit the [Apply to Become a MassHealth Provider](#) page on Mass.gov to request an application.
 - To check and see if you are actively enrolled, you may visit [MassHealth Provider Self-Service](#) and click on the option to Check Provider Enrollment Status.
- All applications must be complete in order to comply with the state law requirement to apply to participate in MassHealth.
 - All applications, including the Non-billing Provider Application, require a national provider identifier (NPI) number. If you do not have an NPI number, you will need to obtain one in order to complete the application. Visit the [NPPES FAQ](#) to view the instructions on how to obtain an NPI.
 - All Applications require the inclusion of your Social Security Number (SSN) to allow MassHealth to perform the required review of the application in accordance with federal law.
- In the event of upcoming license expirations and renewals, all LICSWs will be asked to attest that they have applied to MassHealth. LICSWs who are unable to make this attestation will not be eligible for licensure renewal.
- We encourage LICSWs to apply to enroll with MassHealth as soon as possible so that their license renewals will not be delayed.

