



**Commonwealth of Massachusetts**  
Executive Office of Health and Human Services  
**Office of Medicaid**  
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**MassHealth**  
**Mental Health Center Bulletin 33**  
**May 2020**

**TO:** Mental Health Centers Participating in MassHealth

**FROM:** Amanda Cassel Kraft, Acting Medicaid Director

**RE:** **Clarifying the Provision of Diagnostic Services**

### **Background**

This bulletin clarifies certain requirements for the provision of services pursuant to 130 CMR 429: *Mental Health Center Services*. This guidance pertains to diagnostic services delivered pursuant to 130 CMR 429.421: *Scope of Services*.

### **Diagnostic Services**

Mental health centers (MHCs) must have the capacity to provide diagnostic services pursuant to 130 CMR 429.421: *Scope of Services*. MHCs must administer diagnostic services on a member's initial date of service and must complete a comprehensive diagnostic assessment over subsequent visits. MHCs must perform ongoing diagnostic services, as medically necessary, throughout treatment.

Diagnostic services must be responsive to the member's chief complaint or presenting problem and sufficient to render clinical formulation, design a treatment plan, and support referrals for treatment. Medical necessity for the treatment provided by the MHC must be supported by the diagnostic services and documented in the member's record. The MHC must provide specific treatment services (prescription of medications, therapy, etc.) immediately following diagnostic services, if medically necessary, or provide the member with a referral to services if such services are not available through the MHC.

In addition to all applicable recordkeeping requirements, the MHC must document diagnostic services in the member's record pursuant to 130 CMR 429.436(C): *Recordkeeping Requirements*. Documentation of diagnostic services shall, at minimum, include

- assessment of the member's current and previous physical and psychological health, including a risk assessment; and
- the member's current and previous substance use treatment or any other related treatment, including pharmacotherapy.

All diagnostic services performed throughout treatment must be documented in the member's record to inform longitudinal treatment planning and to substantiate billing.

**MassHealth  
Mental Health Center Bulletin 33  
May 2020  
Page 2 of 2**

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**Questions**

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