

Commonwealth of Massachusetts MassHealth Provider Manual Series Mental Health Center Manual	Subchapter Number and Title Table of Contents	Page iv
	Transmittal Letter MHC-53	Date 9/1/2025

4. PROGRAM REGULATIONS

429.401: Introduction	4-1
429.402: Definitions	4-1
429.403: Eligible Members	4-5
429.404: Provider Eligibility	4-5
429.405: Provider Enrollment Process	4-7
429.406: Required Notifications and Reports	4-7
429.407: Revocation of Enrollment and Sanctions	4-8
429.408: In-state Providers: Maximum Allowable Fees	4-8
429.409: Out-of-state Providers: Maximum Allowable Fees	4-9
429.410: Nonreimbursable Services	4-9
429.411: Site Inspections	4-10
429.412: Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment (EPSDT) Services	4-10
(130 CMR 429.413 through 429.420 Reserved)	
429.421: Scope of Services	4-10
429.422: Staff Composition Requirements	4-14
429.423: Supervision, Training, and Other Staff Requirements	4-16
429.424: Qualifications of Staff Authorized to Render Billable Services.....	4-17
(130 CMR 429.425 through 429.432 Reserved)	
429.433: Coordination of Care	4-19
429.434: Schedule of Operations	4-19
429.435: Utilization Review Plan	4-20
429.436: Recordkeeping Requirements	4-20
429.437: Written Policies and Procedures	4-22
429.438: Administration	4-22
429.439: Satellite Clinics	4-23
429.440: Outreach	4-23
429.441: Service Limitations	4-23

Commonwealth of Massachusetts MassHealth Provider Manual Series Mental Health Center Manual	Subchapter Number and Title 4. Program Regulations (130 CMR 429.000)	Page 4-1
	Transmittal Letter MHC-53	Date 9/1/2025

429.401: Introduction

130 CMR 429.000 establishes requirements for participation of mental health centers in MassHealth and governs mental health centers operated by freestanding clinics and satellite clinics. All mental health centers participating in MassHealth must comply with the MassHealth regulations, including but not limited to, 130 CMR 429.000 and 130 CMR 450.000: *Administrative and Billing Regulations*.

429.402: Definitions

The following terms used in 130 CMR 429.000 have the meanings given in 130 CMR 429.402 unless the context clearly requires a different meaning.

Adverse Incident. An occurrence that represents actual or potential serious harm to the well-being of a member, or to others under the care of the mental health center. Adverse incidents may be the result of the actions of a member served, actions of a staff member providing services, or incidents that compromise the health, safety, or operations of the center.

American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM). A professional society in the field of addiction medicine that sets diagnostic and dimensional criteria for the delivery of substance use disorder treatment which includes a continuum of five basic levels of care from Early Intervention to Medically Managed Intensive Inpatient Treatment.

Behavioral Health Disorder. Any disorder pertaining to mental health or substance use as defined by the current edition of the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders*.

Behavioral Health Urgent Care (BHUC) Provider. A center that meets the requirements in 130 CMR 429.404(D).

Case Consultation. Intervention, including scheduled audio-only telephonic, audio-video, or in-person meetings, for behavioral and medical management purposes on a member's behalf with agencies, employers, or institutions which may include the preparation of reports of the member's psychiatric status, history, treatment, or progress (other than for legal purposes) for other physicians, agencies, or insurance carriers.

Care Coordination. The organization of a member's care across multiple services and supports.

Certified Peer Specialist (CPS). A person who has been trained by an agency approved by the Department of Mental Health (DMH) who is self-identified as having lived experience of a mental health disorder and wellness who can effectively share their experiences and serve as a mentor, advocate, or facilitator for a member experiencing a mental health disorder.

Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS). A standardized tool that organizes information gathered during behavioral health clinical assessments. A Massachusetts version of the tool has been developed and is intended to be used as a treatment decision support tool for behavioral health providers serving MassHealth members younger than 21 years of age.

Communication Protocol. Formal descriptions of requirements that allow two or more providers to exchange information.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts MassHealth Provider Manual Series Mental Health Center Manual	Subchapter Number and Title 4. Program Regulations (130 CMR 429.000)	Page 4-2
	Transmittal Letter MHC-53	Date 9/1/2025

Co-occurring Disorder. A diagnosis of both a substance use disorder and one or more behavioral health disorders.

Core Discipline. Licensed behavioral health disciplines, including, but not limited to psychiatry, social work, psychology, or psychiatric nursing (including an advanced practice registered nurse), which compose a mental health center's multidisciplinary staff.

Couples Therapy. Psychotherapeutic services provided to a couple whose primary issue is the disruption of their marriage, family, or relationship.

Crisis Intervention. An urgent evaluation including assessment of risk, diagnosis, short-term intervention, and rendering of a disposition for a member's presenting crisis, which may include referral to an existing or new behavioral health provider.

Developmental Assessment. The assessment of developmental status including the administration of developmental testing to assess fine and/or gross motor, language, cognitive level, social, memory, and/or executive functions.

Developmental Testing. The assessment of fine and/or gross motor, language, cognitive level, social, memory, and/or executive functions by standardized developmental instruments, which may include the interpretation and reporting of results.

Diagnostic Evaluation Services. The examination and determination of a member's physical, psychological, social, economic, educational, and vocational assets and disabilities for the purpose of designing a treatment plan.

Direct and Continuous Supervision. Ongoing supervision provided to unlicensed staff and not independently licensed staff at a frequency of no fewer than one hour of supervision per week for full-time employees. Supervision time may be pro-rated based on scheduled hours for employees employed less than full-time. Direct and continuous supervision must be delivered by an independently licensed staff member or certified peer supervisor who is employed by the agency.

Enhanced Structured Outpatient Addiction Program (E-SOAP). American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM) Level 2.1 Intensive Outpatient Services is a program that provides short-term, clinically intensive, structured day and/or evening substance use disorder services. E-SOAP specifically serves specialty populations including homeless members and people at risk of homelessness, pregnant members, and adolescents. E-SOAP services must meet requirements in 130 CMR 418.000: *Substance Use Disorder Treatment Services*.

Family Consultation. A scheduled meeting with one or more of the parents, legal guardian, or foster parents of a child who is being treated by clinical staff at the center, when the parents, legal guardian, or foster parents are not clients of the center.

Family Therapy. The psychotherapeutic treatment of more than one member of a family simultaneously in the same visit.

Freestanding Clinic. Any institution licensed as a clinic by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health pursuant to M.G.L. c. 111, s. 51, that is not part of a hospital and that possesses its own legal identity, maintains its own patient records, and administers its own budget and

Commonwealth of Massachusetts MassHealth Provider Manual Series	Subchapter Number and Title 4. Program Regulations (130 CMR 429.000)	Page 4-3
	Transmittal Letter MHC-53	Date 9/1/2025

personnel. Such institutions include mental health centers and community health centers.

Group Therapy. The application of psychotherapeutic or counseling techniques to a group of members, most of whom are not related by blood, marriage, or legal guardianship.

Individual Therapy. Psychotherapeutic services provided to a member.

Intensive Outpatient Program (IOP). A mental health treatment service that provides time-limited, multidisciplinary, multimodal structured treatment in an outpatient setting for members requiring a clinical intensity that exceeds outpatient treatment. Service includes individual, group, and family therapy as well as case management services.

Medication for Addiction Treatment (MAT). Use of a medication approved by the federal Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for the treatment of a substance use disorder.

Medication for Opioid Use Disorder (MOUD). Use of a medication approved by the FDA for the treatment of opioid use disorder.

Medication Visit. A member visit specifically for the prescription, review, and monitoring of medication by a psychiatrist, psychiatric clinical nurse specialist, advanced practice registered nurse, or physician assistant, or administration of prescribed intramuscular medication by a physician, nurse, or physician assistant.

Mental Health Center (Center). An entity that delivers a comprehensive group of diagnostic and psychotherapeutic treatment services to members seeking treatment for mental health disorders, which may include co-occurring substance use disorder, and their families, by an interdisciplinary team under the medical direction of a psychiatrist.

Mental Health Disorder. Any disorder pertaining to mental health as defined by the current edition of the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders*.

Multiple Family Group Therapy. The treatment of more than one family unit, at the same time in the same visit, by one or more authorized staff members. There must more than one family member present per family unit and at least one of the family members per family unit must be an identified patient of the center.

Neuropsychological Assessment. A battery of performance-based assessments administered by an eligible provider that assesses cognitive functioning and developmental delays, in order to examine the cognitive consequences of brain damage, brain disease, physical, and mental illness, and other conditions that may impact cognitive functioning and achievement of developmental milestones. A neuropsychological assessment may include tests of intelligence, attention and concentration, learning and memory, processing speed, visual spatial perception, language skills, visual motor and fine motor skills, sensory perception, executive functioning, and emotional functioning.

Outreach Program. Mental health and substance use disorder treatment services being delivered by a clinical or paraprofessional staff member of the center off the premises of the mental health center or any of its satellite clinics, including, but not limited to, services in members' homes or other community environments.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts MassHealth Provider Manual Series Mental Health Center Manual	Subchapter Number and Title 4. Program Regulations (130 CMR 429.000)	Page 4-4
	Transmittal Letter MHC-53	Date 9/1/2025

Parent Clinic. The central location of the mental health center, at which most of the administrative, organizational, and clinical services are performed.

Peer Recovery Coach. An individual in addiction recovery who brings lived experience and has completed specialized training to provide nonclinical peer recovery support to members in or seeking recovery. Peer recovery coaches serve as mentors to build hope, explore recovery pathways, and achieve self-directed life goals. Peer recovery coaches also help members navigate systems, overcome barriers, build recovery capital, establish community connections, and link to supportive resources. Peer recovery coaches must meet requirements in 130 CMR 418.000: *Substance Use Disorder Treatment Services*.

Pharmacotherapy. Therapeutic treatment with pharmaceutical drugs.

Physician. An individual licensed by the Massachusetts Board of Registration in Medicine in accordance with M.G.L. c. 112, § 2.

Preventive Behavioral Health Services. Short-term group interventions, recommended by a physician or other licensed practitioner, practicing within their scope of licensure, that cultivate coping skills and strategies for symptoms of depression, anxiety, and other social/emotional concerns, to prevent the development of behavioral health disorders for children and adolescents younger than 21 years of age.

Psychological Assessment. The use of standardized test instruments and procedures to evaluate aspects of a member's functioning. Psychological assessment includes intelligence, neuropsychological and developmental, and personality assessments. Test instruments used for psychological assessment must be published, valid, and in general use as defined by listing in the *Mental Measurements Yearbook* or successor publication, or by conformity to the *Standards for Educational and Psychological Testing* of the American Psychological Association.

Quality Management Program. A systematic and ongoing process for monitoring, evaluating, and improving the quality and appropriateness of services provided to members, with focused attention on addressing cultural, ethnic, and language differences.

Recovery Support Navigator. A paraprofessional specialist who receives specialized training in the essentials of substance use disorder and evidence-based techniques, such as motivational interviewing, and who supports members in accessing and navigating the substance use disorder treatment system through activities that can include care coordination, case management, and motivational support. Recovery support navigators must meet requirements in 130 CMR 418.000: *Substance Use Disorder Treatment Services*.

Release of Information (ROI). A document that allows a patient to authorize and revoke what information they want to release from their patient record, who it can be released to, how long it can be released for, and under what statutes and guidelines it is released.

Satellite Clinic. A clinic at a different location from the parent center that operates under the license of and falls under the fiscal, administrative, and personnel management of the parent center.

Structured Outpatient Addiction Program (SOAP): ASAM Level Intensive Outpatient Services. A substance use disorder treatment service that provides short-term, multidisciplinary, clinically

Commonwealth of Massachusetts MassHealth Provider Manual Series Mental Health Center Manual	Subchapter Number and Title 4. Program Regulations (130 CMR 429.000)	Page 4-5
	Transmittal Letter MHC-53	Date 9/1/2025

intensive structured treatment to address the subacute needs of members with substance use disorders and/or co-occurring disorders. These services may be used as a transition service in the continuum of care toward lower intensity outpatient services or accessed directly. SOAP services must meet requirements in 130 CMR 418.000: *Substance Use Disorder Treatment Services*.

Substance Use Disorder. Any disorder pertaining to substance use as defined by the current edition of the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders*.

Supervised Clinical Experience. A clinician's experience providing diagnostic and treatment services to individuals, families, and groups of individuals under the direct and continuous supervision of a qualified independently licensed professional as set forth in 130 CMR 429.423, who is employed by the same agency as the supervisee.

Telehealth. The use of synchronous or asynchronous audio, video, electronic media, or other telecommunications technology, including, but not limited to interactive audio-video technology; remote patient monitoring devices; audio-only telephone; and online adaptive interviews, for the purpose of evaluating, diagnosing, consulting, prescribing, treating, or monitoring of a member's physical health, oral health, mental health, or substance use disorder condition.

Urgent Behavioral Health Needs. Needs characterized by changes in behavior or thinking, role dysfunction, emerging intent of self-injury, or threats to others. Urgent behavioral health needs do not rise to the level of immediate risk of harm to self or others.

429.403: Eligible Members

(A) MassHealth Members. MassHealth covers mental health center services only when provided to eligible MassHealth members, subject to the restrictions and limitations described in the MassHealth agency's regulations. Covered services for each MassHealth coverage type are set forth in 130 CMR 450.105: *Coverage Types*.

(B) Members of the Emergency Aid to the Elderly, Disabled and Children Program. For information on covered services for recipients of the Emergency Aid to the Elderly, Disabled and Children Program, see 130 CMR 450.106: *Emergency Aid to the Elderly, Disabled and Children Program*.

(C) For information on verifying member eligibility and coverage type, see 130 CMR 450.107: *Eligible Members and the MassHealth Card*.

(D) For limitations on mental health disorder and substance use disorder services provided to members enrolled with a MassHealth managed care provider, see 130 CMR 450.105: *Coverage Types* and 130 CMR 450.124: *Behavioral Health Services*.

429.404: Provider Eligibility

(A) In State. Each center operated by a freestanding clinic or a satellite clinic is eligible to participate only if the center is

- (1) enrolled as a Medicare provider;
- (2) enrolled and actively participating with the MassHealth agency as a billing provider as evidenced by the issuance of a Provider Identification and Service Location (PIDSL) number for the provision of mental health center services at that location; and

Commonwealth of Massachusetts MassHealth Provider Manual Series Mental Health Center Manual	Subchapter Number and Title 4. Program Regulations (130 CMR 429.000)	Page 4-6
	Transmittal Letter MHC-53	Date 9/1/2025

- (3) licensed by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH). The MassHealth agency may waive the clinic licensure requirement for centers that are
- (a) operated by a local department of public health; and
 - (b) comply with 130 CMR 429.404(A)(2).

(B) Out of State. Each out-of-state center operated by a freestanding clinic or satellite clinic is eligible to participate only if the center

- (1) meets the following criteria:
 - (a) if the center is required by its own state's law to be licensed, each center must be licensed by the appropriate state agency under whose jurisdiction it operates;
 - (b) each center must participate in its own state's medical assistance program or its equivalent; and
 - (c) each center must have a rate of reimbursement established by the appropriate rate setting regulatory body of its state.
- (2) is a Medicare-participating provider;
- (3) is enrolled by the MassHealth agency as a provider of mental health center services at that location; and
- (4) obtains a MassHealth PIDSL number.

(C) Behavioral Health Urgent Care Provider Eligibility. To be designated as a behavioral health urgent care (BHUC) provider, a center must meet the eligibility requirements in 130 CMR 429.404(A) and the following criteria:

- (1) Comply with the regulations in 130 CMR 429.000;
- (2) Attest at a time and in a form determined by the MassHealth agency to being able to meet the following requirements:
 - (a) Appointments.
 - 1. Appointments for diagnostic evaluation services for new clients are available on the same or next day of clinic operation, when clinically indicated based on initial intake;
 - 2. Appointments for all existing clients with an urgent behavioral health need are available on the same or next day of clinic operation;
 - 3. Urgent psychopharmacology appointments and Medication for Addiction Treatment (MAT) evaluations are available within 72 hours of an initial diagnostic evaluation and based on a psychosocial assessment; and
 - 4. All other treatment appointments including follow-up appointments are available within 14 days.
 - (b) Hours. Meet the requirements in 130 CMR 429.434(D).
 - (c) Language Capabilities. Maintain the ability to use two-way video communication for translation services, and/or have multilingual staff that align with the language needs of the communities served.
- (3) Multiple Clinics. The BHUC provider requirements must be met at the clinic location level.

(D) Each center operated by a freestanding clinic or satellite clinic must meet the requirements in 130 CMR 429.000 to be enrolled by the MassHealth agency.

(E) Payment for services described in 130 CMR 429.000 will be made only to mental health centers participating in MassHealth on the date of service.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts MassHealth Provider Manual Series Mental Health Center Manual	Subchapter Number and Title 4. Program Regulations (130 CMR 429.000)	Page 4-7
	Transmittal Letter MHC-53	Date 9/1/2025

429.405: Provider Enrollment Process

(A) A separate, complete application for enrollment as a mental health center must be submitted for each parent clinic and each satellite clinic operated by the parent clinic that operates under a different tax identification number than the parent clinic. The applicant must submit the appropriate provider enrollment application to the MassHealth agency. The MassHealth agency may request additional information or perform a site inspection to evaluate the applicant's compliance with the regulations in 130 CMR 429.000.

(1) Based on the information in the enrollment application, information known to the MassHealth agency about the applicant, and on the findings from any site inspection deemed necessary, the MassHealth agency will determine whether the applicant is eligible for enrollment.

(2) The MassHealth agency will notify the applicant of the determination in writing within 60 days of the MassHealth agency receiving a completed application. An application will not be considered complete until the applicant has responded to all MassHealth requests for additional information, and MassHealth has completed any required site inspection.

(B) If the MassHealth agency determines that the applicant is not eligible for enrollment, the notice will contain a statement of the reasons for that determination, including, but not limited to, incomplete application materials and recommendations for corrective action, if appropriate, so that the applicant may reapply for enrollment once corrective action has been completed.

(C) The enrollment is valid only for the center or centers described in the application and is not transferable to other centers operated at other locations by the applicant. Any additional center established by the applicant at a satellite clinic or other location must separately apply for enrollment and be enrolled with the MassHealth agency to receive payment.

429.406: Required Notifications and Reports

(A) Annual Report. Each mental health center must submit a completed attestation, on forms provided by the MassHealth agency, and file them with the MassHealth agency by September 30 of each year. The center must maintain and provide documentation supporting this attestation upon request by the MassHealth agency. The attestation must include at minimum

(1) a statement that the program has reviewed and updated, as necessary, its written policies and procedures during the reporting period.

(2) a statement that the program has completed ongoing review of staffing licensure and license eligibility, including licensure verification with specific attention to provider administrative and clinical management staff;(3) a statement describing the current language capacities, capacity to provide services to specialized populations, and utilization of evidenced-based modalities of the program;

(4) a statement that that the center is in compliance with 130 CMR 429.000; and

(5) any other information that the MassHealth agency may request.

(B) Staffing and Personnel Reports. Each center must provide additional staffing or personnel information as requested by the MassHealth agency.

(C) For each CANS assessment conducted, each center must report data collected during the assessment to the MassHealth agency, in the manner and format specified by the MassHealth agency.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts MassHealth Provider Manual Series Mental Health Center Manual	Subchapter Number and Title 4. Program Regulations (130 CMR 429.000)	Page 4-8
	Transmittal Letter MHC-53	Date 9/1/2025

(D) Adverse Incident Reports. Each center must report adverse incidents to the MassHealth agency within 24 hours of discovery of the incident, or, if the incident occurs on a holiday or weekend, on the next business day, in a format specified by the MassHealth agency.

(E) Each center must inform the MassHealth agency within 15 days of any citation or loss of licensure or accreditation issued to the center by another agency, including, but not limited to, DPH, an out-of-state provider's relevant state licensing agency, the Joint Commission, or the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF), or changes to or loss of Medicare participation and enrollment.

(F) Each center must comply with all reporting requirements that may pertain to the practice, facility, or staffing of the center as directed by the MassHealth agency.

429.407: Revocation of Enrollment and Sanctions

(A) The MassHealth agency has the right to review a mental health center's continued compliance with the conditions for enrollment referred to in 130 CMR 429.405 and the reporting requirements in 130 CMR 429.406 upon reasonable notice and at any reasonable time during the center's hours of operation. The MassHealth agency has the right to revoke the enrollment, subject to any applicable provisions of 130 CMR 450.000: *Administrative and Billing Regulations*, if such review reveals that the center has failed to or ceased to meet such conditions.

(B) If the MassHealth agency determines that there exists good cause for the imposition of a lesser sanction than revocation of enrollment, it may withhold payment, temporarily suspend the center from participation in MassHealth, or impose some other lesser sanction as the MassHealth agency sees fit, pursuant to the processes in 130 CMR 450.000: *Administrative and Billing Regulations*, as applicable.

429.408: In-state Providers: Maximum Allowable Fees

(A) The MassHealth agency pays for mental health center services with rates set by EOHHS, subject to the conditions, exclusions, and limitations in 130 CMR 429.000. EOHHS fees for mental health center services are in 101 CMR 306.00: *Rates for Mental Health Services Provided in Community Health Centers and Mental Health Centers*.

(1) If the center has a sliding scale charge structure, the maximum published charges will be considered the center's usual charge to the general public, provided the following conditions are met:

- (a) the center's full charges must be published in a fee schedule;
- (b) the center's revenues must be based on the application of full charges with allowances noted for reduction of fees;
- (c) the center's procedure for reduction of fees must be in accordance with written policies; and
- (d) the center must maintain sufficient information to document the amount of the reductions.

(2) Centers designated as BHUC providers pursuant to 130 CMR 429.404(A) may bill for the provision of these services according to rates in 101 CMR 306.00: *Rates for Mental Health Center Services Provided in Community Health Centers and Mental Health Centers*.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts MassHealth Provider Manual Series Mental Health Center Manual	Subchapter Number and Title 4. Program Regulations (130 CMR 429.000)	Page 4-9
	Transmittal Letter MHC-53	Date 9/1/2025

(B) Administrative Operations. Payment by the MassHealth agency for mental health center services includes payment for administrative operations and for all aspects of service delivery not explicitly included in 130 CMR 429.000, such as, but not limited to

- (1) completion of member registration and intake, which may be completed on a telephonic or walk-in basis, and must include collecting and recording at least the minimally required member information necessary to facilitate diagnostic evaluation services, including the members' presenting concern, and for referral to an appropriate provider or service;
- (2) communication with members or other parties that may include processes for appointment reminders or coordination of care;
- (3) staff supervision or consultation with another staff member within the mental health center;
- (4) providing information for the coordination of referrals; and
- (5) recordkeeping.

429.409: Out-of-state Providers: Maximum Allowable Fees

Payment to a mental health center located out of state must be in accordance with the applicable rate schedule of its state's medical assistance program, or its equivalent, and is always subject to the applicable conditions, exclusions, and limitations in 130 CMR 429.000.

429.410: Nonreimbursable Services

(A) Nonmedical Services. The MassHealth agency does not pay mental health centers for nonmedical services. These services include, but are not limited to

- (1) vocational rehabilitation services;
- (2) sheltered workshops (a program of vocational counseling and training in which participants receive paid work experience or other supervised employment);
- (3) educational services;
- (4) recreational services (play therapy, the use of play activities with a child in an identified treatment setting as an alternative to strictly verbal expression of conflicts and feelings, is not considered a recreational service and is reimbursable);
- (5) life enrichment services (ego-enhancing services such as workshops or educational courses provided to functioning persons); and
- (6) other services such as providing information, referral, and advocacy to certain age populations, liaising with other agencies, role modeling, and community organization.

(B) Travel Time for Outreach. Travel time to and from an outreach visit, including a member's home, place of residence, or an appropriate, mutually agreed-upon community-based location is not a reimbursable service.

(C) Nonmedical Programs. The MassHealth agency does not pay for diagnostic and treatment services that are provided as an integral part of a planned and comprehensive program that is organized to provide primarily nonmedical or other nonreimbursable services. Such programs include residential programs, day activity programs, drop-in centers, and educational programs.

(D) Research and Experimental Treatment. The MassHealth agency does not pay for research or experimental treatment.

(E) Referrals. A provider to whom a member is referred must bill the MassHealth agency directly for any services rendered as a result of the referral, not through the mental health center.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts MassHealth Provider Manual Series Mental Health Center Manual	Subchapter Number and Title 4. Program Regulations (130 CMR 429.000)	Page 4-10
	Transmittal Letter MHC-53	Date 9/1/2025

To receive payment for referral services, the rendering provider must be a participating provider in MassHealth on the date of service. (*See* 130 CMR 429.421(6)).

429.411: Site Inspections

(A) The MassHealth agency may, at any time, conduct announced or unannounced site inspections of any center to determine compliance with applicable regulations. Such site inspections need not pertain to any actual or suspected deficiency in compliance with the regulations.

(B) After any site inspection where deficiencies are observed, the MassHealth agency will prepare a written site inspection report. The site inspection report will include the deficiencies found, and the period within which the deficiency must be corrected. The center must submit a corrective action plan, within the timeframe set forth by the MassHealth agency, for each of the deficiencies cited in the report including the specific corrective steps to be taken, a timetable for these steps, and the date by which full compliance will be achieved. The MassHealth agency will review the corrective action plan and will accept the corrective action plan only if it conforms to these requirements.

429.412: Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment (EPSDT) Services

The MassHealth agency pays for all medically necessary mental health center services for EPSDT eligible members in accordance with 130 CMR 450.140: *Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment (EPSDT) Services*, without regard to service limitations described in 130 CMR 429.000, and with prior authorization.

(130 CMR 429.413 through 429.420 Reserved)

429.421: Scope of Services

(A) Required Services. Each center must have services available to treat a wide range of behavioral health disorders, including co-occurring substance use disorders. All services must be clinically determined to be medically necessary and appropriate and must be delivered by qualified staff in accordance with 130 CMR 429.424, and as part of the treatment plan in accordance with 130 CMR 429.421(A)(2). A center must have the capacity to provide at least the services in 130 CMR 429.421(A). In certain rare circumstances, the MassHealth agency may waive the requirement that the center directly provide one or more of these services if the center has a written referral agreement with another source of care to provide such services and makes such referrals according to the provisions of 130 CMR 429.421(A)(6).

(1) Diagnostic Evaluation Services.

(a) Diagnostic evaluation services that may occur on a member's initial date of service or over subsequent visits to complete the diagnostic evaluation, develop a treatment plan, and substantiate treatment rendered, must include

1. an assessment of the current status and history of the member's physical and psychological health, including any current or former substance use;
2. current and former behavioral health disorder treatment, or any other related treatment, including pharmacotherapy or substance use disorder treatment; and
3. current and former social, economic, developmental, and educational functioning describing both strengths and needs.

(b) As treatment progresses, further diagnostic information must be gathered and documented to inform longitudinal treatment planning.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts MassHealth Provider Manual Series Mental Health Center Manual	Subchapter Number and Title 4. Program Regulations (130 CMR 429.000)	Page 4-11
	Transmittal Letter MHC-53	Date 9/1/2025

(c) For members younger than 21 years of age, a CANS assessment must be completed during the initial behavioral health assessment before the initiation of therapy and must be updated at least every 180 days by a CANS-certified provider.

(2) Treatment Planning Services.

(a) Each center must complete a treatment plan for every member either by the member's fourth visit or 30 days after the initiation of treatment. Where an existing written treatment plan has been completed by a different provider before the member's initiation of treatment with the center, the center may rely on such treatment plan, provided that the treatment plan satisfies the requirements of 429.421(A)(2) and that the center reviews the treatment plan and updates the treatment plan, as clinically appropriate, upon initiation of treatment.

(b) The member's written treatment plan must be appropriate to the member's presenting complaint or problem and based on information gathered during the intake and diagnostic evaluation process, including any substance use disorder screening results.

(c) The treatment plan must be in writing, and must include at least the following information, as appropriate to the member's presenting complaint or problem:

1. identified problems and needs relevant to treatment and discharge expressed in behavioral, descriptive terms;
2. the member's strengths and needs;
3. measurable treatment goals addressing identified problems, with time guidelines for accomplishing goals and working toward discharge;
4. identified clinical interventions, including pharmacotherapy, to obtain treatment goals;
5. evidence of member's input in formulation of the treatment plan, for example, the member's stated goals, and direct quotes from the member;
6. clearly defined staff responsibilities and assignments for implementing the plan;
7. the date the plan was last reviewed or revised; and
8. the signatures and licenses or degrees of staff involved in the review or revision.

(d) Treatment plans for members 21 years of age and older provided by a mental health center must be updated at least every 12 months or sooner, as clinically indicated.

Treatment plans for all members younger than 21 years of age and/or provided by a mental health center designated as a BHUC services provider must be updated at least every six months or sooner, as clinically indicated. Clinical indications that a treatment plan requires review before the minimum schedule include significant changes in clinical presentation or treatment needs, which may include, but are not limited to, admission to inpatient level of care or initiation of pharmacotherapy or therapy services.

(e) When the member meets the goals and objectives within the treatment plan, a written discharge summary must be completed by the clinician that describes the member's response to the course of treatment and referrals to aftercare and other resources.

(3) Case and Family Consultation and Therapy Services. These services must include case and family consultation, individual, group, couple, and family therapies provided by or supervised by the mental health professionals identified in 130 CMR 429.422.

(4) Pharmacotherapy Services.

(a) Pharmacotherapy services must include, but are not limited to, an assessment of the patient's

1. psychiatric symptoms and disorders;
2. health status including medical conditions and medications;
3. use or misuse of alcohol or other substances; and
4. prior experience with psychiatric medications.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts MassHealth Provider Manual Series Mental Health Center Manual	Subchapter Number and Title 4. Program Regulations (130 CMR 429.000)	Page 4-12
	Transmittal Letter MHC-53	Date 9/1/2025

(b) Pharmacotherapy services must include medication prescribing, reviewing, and monitoring.

(c) Pharmacotherapy services must be provided by an appropriately licensed individual with the authority to prescribe medications.

(d) Pharmacotherapy services may be provided by a provider that is not employed by the center who is operating under a documented agreement with the center.

(e) These requirements do not preclude the one-time administration of a medication in an emergency in accordance with a prescribing practitioner's order.

(5) Crisis Intervention Services. Each center must provide clinic coverage to respond to members experiencing a crisis 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

(a) During business hours, clinic coverage must include, at minimum, crisis evaluation by a qualified professional and triage to appropriate services for the member's presenting crisis.

(b) After-hours crisis intervention services must include live telephonic access to qualified professionals and, if indicated, triage in real-time to an appropriate provider to determine whether a higher level of care and/or additional diversionary services are necessary. A recorded message will not fulfill the requirement for access to a qualified professional.

(6) Referral Services.

(a) Each center must have written policies and procedures for addressing a member's behavioral health disorder needs that exceed the scope of services provided by the center including but not limited to substance use disorder needs. Policies and procedures must minimally include personnel, referral, coordination, and other procedural commitments to address the referral of members to the appropriate health care providers, including but not limited to substance use disorder providers.

(b) When referring a member to another provider for services, each center must ensure continuity of care, exchange of relevant health information such as test results and records, and avoidance of service duplication between the center and the provider to whom a member is referred. Each center must also ensure that the referral process is completed successfully and documented in the member's medical record.

(c) In the case of a member who is referred to services outside of the center, the rendering provider must bill the MassHealth agency directly for any services rendered to a member. The rendering provider may not bill through the referring mental health center.

(B) Optional Services. The services described in 130 CMR 429.421 are reimbursed by the MassHealth agency and are intended to complement the required services in 130 CMR 429.414(A). The following services in 130 CMR 429.421(B) are billable services and are allowed but not required to be provided by a center. All optional services provided by the center must be described in a member's treatment plan developed pursuant to 130 CMR 429.421(A)(2).

(1) Certified Peer Specialist (CPS) Services. The MassHealth agency pays for CPS services that promote empowerment, self-determination, self-advocacy, understanding, coping skills, and resiliency through a specialized set of activities and interactions when provided by a qualified CPS to a member with a mental health disorder.

(2) Structured Outpatient Addiction Program (SOAP). The MassHealth agency pays for SOAP services delivered by centers in conformance with all applicable sections of 130 CMR 418.000: *Substance Use Disorder Treatment Services*.

(3) Enhanced Structured Outpatient Addiction Program (E-SOAP). The MassHealth agency pays for E-SOAP services delivered by centers in conformance with all applicable sections of 130 CMR 418.000: *Substance Use Disorder Treatment Services*.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts MassHealth Provider Manual Series Mental Health Center Manual	Subchapter Number and Title 4. Program Regulations (130 CMR 429.000)	Page 4-13
	Transmittal Letter MHC-53	Date 9/1/2025

- (4) Peer Recovery Coach Services. The MassHealth agency pays for peer recovery coach services delivered by centers in conformance with all applicable sections of 130 CMR 418.000: *Substance Use Disorder Treatment Services*.
- (5) Recovery Support Navigator Services. The MassHealth agency pays for recovery support navigator services delivered by centers in conformance with all applicable sections of 130 CMR 418.000: *Substance Use Disorder Treatment Services*.
- (6) Intensive Outpatient Program (IOP). The MassHealth agency pays for the following clinical interventions, when delivered as part of an Intensive Outpatient Program.
- (a) IOPs must provide a member with 3.5 hours of services each day for a minimum of five days a week. Specific IOP clinical interventions must include
1. biopsychosocial evaluation;
 2. individualized treatment planning based on results of biopsychosocial evaluation;
 3. case and family consultation;
 4. crisis prevention planning, and safety planning for youth, as applicable;
 5. discharge planning and case management;
 6. individual, group, and family therapy;
 7. multidisciplinary treatment team review;
 8. peer support and recovery-oriented services;
 9. provision of access to medication evaluation and medication management, as indicated, directly or by referral;
 10. psychoeducation;
 11. substance use disorder assessment and treatment services; and
 12. access to medication evaluation and medication management.
- (b) If medication evaluation and medication management services are not provided within the IOP service, the center may provide these services through the mental health center.
- (7) Preventive Behavioral Health Services. Preventive behavioral health services are provided to members younger than 21 years of age who have a positive behavioral health screen, or in the case of an infant, a caregiver who has had a positive postpartum depression screen. Preventive behavioral health services are delivered by a qualified behavioral health clinician. If the provider determines that a member has further clinical needs during the delivery of preventive behavioral health services, members and families should be referred for evaluation, diagnostic, and treatment services. After six sessions, if the provider determines that further preventive behavioral health services are needed, providers should document the clinical appropriateness of ongoing preventive services.
- (C) Designated Behavioral Health Urgent Care Center Services. Centers designated as BHUC providers pursuant to 130 CMR 429.404(C) must have services available to treat a wide range of behavioral health disorders, including co-occurring substance use disorders to address member acuity and population needs.
- (1) Centers designated as BHUC providers must have the capacity to provide at least the services in 130 CMR 429.421(A) and may provide optional services reimbursed by the MassHealth agency pursuant to 130 CMR 492.421(B). All services must be clinically determined to be medically necessary and appropriate and must be delivered by qualified staff in accordance with 130 CMR 429.424, and as part of the treatment plan in accordance with 130 CMR 429.421(A)(2).
- (2) During all hours of operation, centers designated as BHUC providers must provide access, induction, and prescription for all FDA-approved medications to treat opioid use disorder and alcohol use disorder.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts MassHealth Provider Manual Series Mental Health Center Manual	Subchapter Number and Title 4. Program Regulations (130 CMR 429.000)	Page 4-14
	Transmittal Letter MHC-53	Date 9/1/2025

(3) All centers designated as BHUC providers must provide services for all members. In certain rare circumstances, the MassHealth agency may waive the requirement that the center directly provide one or more of these services if the center has a written referral agreement with another source of care to provide such services and makes such referrals according to the provisions of 130 CMR 429.421(A)(6).

429.422: Staff Composition Requirements

(A) Minimum Staffing Requirements. Each center must meet the minimum staffing and staff composition requirements in 130 CMR 429.422 to adequately provide the required scope of services in 130 CMR 429.421. The staff must include other related mental health professionals as appropriate to meet the needs of members, which includes staff necessary for the provision of intake, diagnostic evaluation, and treatment services.

(B) Minimum Staffing Composition.

(1) Psychiatrist. Each center must employ, whether on staff or by contract, at least one psychiatrist licensed by the Massachusetts Board of Registration in Medicine pursuant to M.G.L. c. 112, §§ 2 through 12DD; c. 112 §§ 61 through 65 and 88 and 243 CMR 2.00: *Licensing and the Practice of Medicine* and certified by the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology, the American Osteopathic Board of Neurology and Psychiatry, or board-eligible for such certification. Such psychiatrist is responsible for prescribing, or monitoring and supervising, the prescription of all medications.

(2) Multidisciplinary Staff. In addition to the requirements under 130 CMR 429.422(B)(1), each center must have a multidisciplinary staff that includes at least two of the following mental health professionals:

(a) Psychologist. A psychologist licensed by the Massachusetts Board of Registration of Psychologists, and specializing in clinical or counseling psychology, or a closely related specialty, pursuant to M.G.L. c. 112, §§ 118 through 127 and 251 CMR 3.00: *Registration of Psychologists*.

(b) Social Worker. An independent clinical social worker licensed by the Massachusetts Board of Registration of Social Workers pursuant to M.G.L. c. 13, §84 and 258 CMR 9.00: *Licensure Requirements and Procedures*.

(c) Advanced Practice Registered Nurse. An advanced practice registered nurse who specializes in psychiatric treatment as follows:

1. Psychiatric Nurse. A registered nurse with a master's degree in psychiatric nursing licensed by the Board of Registration in Nursing pursuant to M.G.L. c. 112, § 80B and 244 CMR 4.00: *Advanced Practice Registered Nursing*.

2. Psychiatric Clinical Nurse Specialist. A psychiatric clinical nurse specialist licensed by the Board of Registration in Nursing pursuant to M.G.L. c. 112, § 80B and 244 CMR 4.00: *Advanced Practice Registered Nursing*.

(d) Licensed Mental Health Counselor. A licensed mental health counselor licensed by the Board of Registration of Allied Mental Health and Human Service Professions pursuant to M.G.L. c. 112, § 165 and 262 CMR 2.00: *Requirements for Licensure as a Mental Health Center*.

(e) Licensed Alcohol and Drug Counselor I. An alcohol and drug counselor licensed by the DPH pursuant to 105 CMR 168.000: *Licensure of Alcohol and Drug Counselors*.

(f) Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist. A marriage and family therapist licensed by the Board of Registration of Allied Mental Health and Human Services Professions

Commonwealth of Massachusetts MassHealth Provider Manual Series Mental Health Center Manual	Subchapter Number and Title 4. Program Regulations (130 CMR 429.000)	Page 4-15
	Transmittal Letter MHC-53	Date 9/1/2025

pursuant to M.G.L. c. 112, §§ 163 through 172 and 262 CMR 3: *Requirements for Licensure as a Marriage and Family Therapist.*

(g) Other Licensed Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Practitioners. Other mental health and substance use disorder practitioners licensed by the Division of Professional Licensure, DPH, or any Board of Registration and deemed by DPH to be mental health and substance use disorder professionals.

(3) Care Coordination Staff. Staff who help members identify service needs and access those services, and coordinate all services currently involved with the member.

(4) Staff to Administer Medication Services. In addition to the staff required in 130 CMR 429.422(B)(1) and (2), centers may optionally staff physicians, nurse practitioners, and physician assistants to support prescriptive practice and integrated medical services, inclusive of addiction medicine, within the center.

(C) Minimum Requirements for Center Administrative and Clinical Management Staff

(1) Administrator. The mental health center must designate one individual as administrator. The administrator is responsible for the overall operation and management of the center and for ensuring compliance with MassHealth regulations. The administrator must have previous training or experience in personnel, fiscal, and data management, as described in 130 CMR 429.438.

(a) The same individual may serve as both the administrator and clinical director.

(b) In a community health center, the administrator of the entire facility may also administer the mental health center.

(2) Clinical Director. The mental health center must designate a professional staff member to be the clinical director, responsible to the administrator, for the direction and control of all professional staff members and services.

(a) The clinical director must be independently licensed, certified, or registered to practice in one of the core disciplines in 130 CMR 429.422(B)(1) and (B)(2)(a)-(d), and must have at least five years of full-time, supervised clinical experience subsequent to obtaining a master's degree, two years of which must have been in an administrative capacity. The clinical director must be employed full-time. When the clinic is licensed as a community health center, the clinical director must work at the center at least half-time.

(b) The specific responsibilities of the clinical director include

1. selection of clinical staff and maintenance of a complete staffing schedule;
2. establishment of job descriptions and assignment of staff;
3. overall supervision of staff performance;
4. accountability for adequacy and appropriateness of member care;
5. in conjunction with the medical director, accountability for employing adequate psychiatric staff to meet the psychopharmacological needs of members;
6. establishment and maintenance of policies and procedures for member care;
7. provision of some direct member care in circumstances where the clinical director is one of the three minimum full-time equivalent staff members of the center;
8. development of in-service training for professional staff; and
9. establishment of a quality management program.

(3) Medical Director. Each center must designate a psychiatrist who is responsible for establishing all medical policies and protocols and for supervising all medical services provided by the staff. The medical director must be available to the center and satellite sites during the center's operating hours, either onsite or remotely, for consultation and support of clinic operations to ensure the provision of high-quality care. The medical director must be available to be onsite during any hours of clinic operation, as needed. When the clinic is dually enrolled as a community health center, the medical director must be available to the

Commonwealth of Massachusetts MassHealth Provider Manual Series Mental Health Center Manual	Subchapter Number and Title 4. Program Regulations (130 CMR 429.000)	Page 4-16
	Transmittal Letter MHC-53	Date 9/1/2025

mental health center at least four hours a week, either onsite or remotely, provided that the medical director must be available to be onsite during any hours of clinic operation, as needed.

(4) Psychiatrist.

(a) The roles and duties of administrator, clinical director, and medical director, as detailed in 130 CMR 429.422(C)(1) through (3), may be performed, all or in part, by a psychiatrist on the center's staff, as long as provision of services to members and performance of all relevant duties in these regulations meet professionally recognized standards of health care, as required by 130 CMR 450.000: *Administrative and Billing Regulations*.

(b) The role of the psychiatrist in each center, apart from any duties that may be assumed under 130 CMR 429.422(C)(1) through (3), must include

1. responsibility for the evaluation of the physiological, neurological, developmental, and psychopharmacological status of members receiving services;
2. involvement in diagnostic formulations and development and refinement of treatment plans, including reconciliation of psychopharmacological and other medications as required;
3. direct psychotherapy, when indicated;
4. participation in utilization review or quality-assurance activity, when indicated;
5. coordination of the center's relationship with hospitals and provision of general hospital consultations as required;
6. supervision of and consultation to other disciplines; and
7. clinical coverage on an on-call basis at all hours of center operation.

429.423: Supervision, Training, and Other Staff Requirements

(A) Staff Supervision Requirements

(1) Unlicensed or Not Independently Licensed Staff. All professionals who are unlicensed, who are in a profession without licensure, or who are not independently licensed or certified as a peer supervisor must receive direct and continuous supervision. Direct and continuous supervision may be provided using telehealth technology.

(2) Independently Licensed and Certified Peer Supervisor Staff. All independently licensed professionals and certified peer supervisors must receive supervision in accordance with center policy. Supervision may be provided using telehealth technology.

(3) The supervising clinician is primarily responsible for the care of the member. For any care delivered by a professional under supervision there must be documentation in the clinical chart that the chart was reviewed by the supervising clinician.

(4) All supervision must be documented in files accessible for review by the MassHealth agency. Supervision notes must, at a minimum, contain information regarding frequency of supervision, format of supervision, supervisor's signature and credentials, and general content of supervision session.

(B) Staff Training. Centers must provide staff with specific training to provide services to members, including but not limited to training on

- (1) assessing and treating mental health disorders, which may include co-occurring substance use disorders including the clinical and psychosocial needs of the target population using evidence-based practices (e.g., staff treating children must have specialized training and experience in children's services);

Commonwealth of Massachusetts MassHealth Provider Manual Series Mental Health Center Manual	Subchapter Number and Title 4. Program Regulations (130 CMR 429.000)	Page 4-17
	Transmittal Letter MHC-53	Date 9/1/2025

- (2) Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services (CLAS) to ensure the content and process of all services are informed by knowledge, respect for, and sensitivity to culture, and are provided in the individual's preferred language and mode of communication. Training must include recognition and respect for the characteristics of the members served, such as behaviors, ideas, values, beliefs, and language;
- (3) maintaining a trauma-informed facility and upholding standards of trauma-informed care, including fostering trauma-informed environments;
- (4) currently available resources and services, including those in the community, and how to make appropriate referrals based on the needs of the member;
- (5) crisis prevention and de-escalation, risk management and safety planning, and conflict resolution; and
- (6) overdose prevention and response.

(C) Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths Assessment (CANS). Any clinician who provides individual, group, or family therapy to members younger than 21 years of age must be certified every two years to administer the CANS, according to the process established by EOHS.

(D) Staff Professional Standards. Any staff of any discipline operating in the center must comport with the standards and scope of practice delineated in their professional licensure and be in good standing with their board of professional licensure, as applicable. Each center must notify the MassHealth agency of any staff who are censured by DPH or sanctioned by their board of licensure as set forth in 130 CMR 429.406.

(E) Staffing Plan. Centers must maintain a staffing plan that includes policies and procedures to ensure all staffing and supervision requirements pursuant to 130 CMR 429.423.

429.424: Qualifications of Staff Authorized to Render Billable Services

A center may bill only for medically necessary services provided by a professional or paraprofessional staff member qualified as follows.

(A) Psychiatrists and Medical Professionals

- (1) At least one staff psychiatrist must meet the requirements in 130 CMR 429.422.
- (2) Additional psychiatrists must be licensed physicians in their second year of a psychiatric residency program accredited by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education.
- (3) Psychiatrists and prescribers must have the appropriate Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and DPH registrations for the prescribing of controlled substances.

(B) Nursing Staff

- (1) All nurse practitioners, registered nurses, psychiatric nurses, and psychiatric clinical nurse specialists must be licensed by the Board of Registration in Nursing pursuant to M.G.L. c. 112, § 80B and 244 CMR 4.00: *Advanced Practice Registered Nursing*.
- (2) Psychiatric Clinical Nurse Specialists. All psychiatric clinical nurse specialists in the center who are engaged in prescriptive practice with FDA-approved medications for the treatment of opioid use disorders must have completed specialized training and be qualified to prescribe buprenorphine as pharmacotherapy for substance use disorder under state and federal law.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts MassHealth Provider Manual Series Mental Health Center Manual	Subchapter Number and Title 4. Program Regulations (130 CMR 429.000)	Page 4-18
	Transmittal Letter MHC-53	Date 9/1/2025

(C) Psychologists

- (1) Psychologists must be licensed as set forth in 130 CMR 429.422.
- (2) Unlicensed psychology trainees must meet the following requirements:
 - (a) Post-Doctoral Fellows. Post-doctoral fellows must have a minimum of a doctoral degree in clinical or counseling psychology or a closely related specialty from an accredited educational institution and must meet the professional experience and supervisory requirements in 251 CMR 3.00: *Registration of Psychologists*.
 - (b) Psychology Interns. Psychology interns must be enrolled in a structured, clinical, or counseling American Psychological Association (APA)-approved doctoral program.

(D) Social Workers

- (1) Social workers may be independently licensed as set forth in 130 CMR 429.422.
- (2) Social workers without independent licensure must meet the following requirements:
 - (a) Licensed Clinical Social Workers (LCSW). LCSWs must have received a master's degree in social work and completed two years of full-time supervised clinical work in an organized graduate internship program.
 - (b) Post-Graduate, Unlicensed Social Workers. Unlicensed social workers must have received a master's degree in social work from a college or university accredited by the Council on Social Work Education.
 - (c) Social Work Interns. Social work interns must be a second-year, clinical-track student in a structured field practicum that is a component of a masters of social work program, fully accredited by the Council on Social Work Education.

(E) Mental Health Counselors

- (1) Mental health counselors may be licensed as set forth in 130 CMR 429.422.
- (2) Mental health counselors must meet the following requirements:
 - (a) Post-master's Mental Health Counselors. Post-master's mental health counselors must have a master's degree, or above, in a mental health field from an accredited educational institution, and must have completed one year of supervised clinical work in an organized graduate internship program.
 - (b) Mental Health Counselor Interns. Interns must be in a second-year, clinical-track structured field placement that is a component of a master's degree in mental health counseling or counseling psychology that is accepted by the Board of Allied Mental Health and Human Services Professions.

(F) Alcohol and Drug Counselors

- (1) Licensed Alcohol and Drug Counselors (LADC). LADCs may be licensed as a LADC I, as set forth in 130 CMR 429.422.
- (2) LADC II or LADC Assistants. LADC IIs or LADC assistants must be licensed and must support LADC Is in the delivery of services, but may not provide direct services.

(G) Marriage and Family Therapists

- (1) Marriage and family therapists may be licensed, as set forth in 130 CMR 429.422.
- (2) Marriage and family therapists must meet the following requirements:
 - (a) Post-master's Marriage and Family Therapists. Post-master's marriage and family therapists must have a master's degree, or above, in a mental health field from an accredited educational institution and must have completed one year of supervised clinical work in an organized graduate internship program.
 - (b) Marriage and Family Therapy Interns. Interns must be in a second-year, clinical-

Commonwealth of Massachusetts MassHealth Provider Manual Series Mental Health Center Manual	Subchapter Number and Title 4. Program Regulations (130 CMR 429.000)	Page 4-19
	Transmittal Letter MHC-53	Date 9/1/2025

track structured field placement that is a component of a master's degree in marriage and family therapy or a related field that is accepted by the Board of Allied Mental Health and Human Services Professions.

(G) Other Staff

(1) Billing providers of Structured Outpatient Addiction Programs (SOAP) and Enhanced Structured Outpatient Addiction Programs (E-SOAP) services must comply with the requirements of 130 CMR 429.000 and all applicable sections of 130 CMR 418.000: *Substance Use Disorder Treatment Services*.

(2) Billing peer and paraprofessional providers of certified peer specialist services, peer recovery coach services, and recovery support navigator services must comply with the requirements of 130 CMR 429.000. Further, centers must staff peer recovery coaches and recovery support navigators in conformance with the requirements of all applicable sections of 130 CMR 418.000: *Substance Use Disorder Treatment Services*.

(130 CMR 429.425 through 429.432 Reserved)

429.433: Coordination of Care

- (A) Coordination of Medical Care. A mental health center must coordinate behavioral health disorder treatment with medical care for MassHealth members. If a member has not received a physical exam within 12 months of the date of intake, the mental health center must advise the member that one is needed. If the member does not have an existing relationship with a physician, the mental health center must assist the member in contacting the MassHealth agency's customer service center to receive help in selecting a physician. If the member declines a physical examination, the member's record must document their preference and any stated reason for that preference.
- (B) Coordination of Behavioral Health Care. Centers designated as BHUC providers must have a qualified service organization agreement with at least one opioid treatment program provider furnishing services in accordance with 105 CMR 164.000: *Licensure of Substance Use Disorder Treatment Programs* and 130 CMR 418.000: *Substance Use Disorder Treatment Services*. Designated BHUC providers must have relationships with organizations and partners in the community that provide behavioral health services, inclusive of, but not limited to, community behavioral health centers, skilled nursing facilities, primary care providers, opioid treatment programs, emergency departments, schools, and hospitals.

429.434: Schedule of Operations

(A) The center must operate at least one freestanding location that is open and operated at least 40 hours a week.

(B) A mental health center operated by a licensed community health center must be open at least 20 hours a week.

(C) When the center is closed, after-hours coverage must be provided to triage needs and personnel must be available to offer referral to qualified professionals, emergency services, or other mechanisms for effectively responding to a crisis, in accordance with the requirements in 130 CMR 429.421(A)(5).

Commonwealth of Massachusetts MassHealth Provider Manual Series Mental Health Center Manual	Subchapter Number and Title 4. Program Regulations (130 CMR 429.000)	Page 4-20
	Transmittal Letter MHC-53	Date 9/1/2025

(D) Centers Designated as Behavioral Health Urgent Care (BHUC) Providers. Each center designated as a BHUC provider pursuant to 130 CMR 429.404(C) must offer extended availability on Mondays through Fridays outside the hours of 9:00 am–5:00 pm. At minimum, such centers must offer at least eight hours of extended availability per week during weekdays and at least two four-hour blocks of availability on weekends per month.

429.435: Utilization Review Plan

The mental health center must have a utilization review plan that meets the following conditions.

(A) A utilization review committee must be composed of the clinical director or the clinical director's designee and two other professional staff members who meet all the qualifications for their discipline, as outlined in 130 CMR 429.424. The composition of the utilization review committee must be reported to MassHealth as set forth in 130 CMR 429.406.

(B) The utilization review committee must review each member's case in accordance with DPH regulations at 105 CMR 140.540: *Case Review* and following the member's discharge from services at the center.

(C) The utilization review committee must verify for each case that

- (1) the diagnosis is, or has been, adequately documented;
- (2) the treatment plan is, or was, appropriate and specifies the methods and duration of the projected treatment program;
- (3) the treatment plan is being, or has been, carried out;
- (4) the treatment plan is being, or has been, modified as indicated by the member's changing status;
- (5) there is, or was, adequate follow-up when a member misses appointments or drops out of treatment;
- (6) there is, or was, progress toward achievement of short- and long-term goals; and
- (7) for members younger than 21 years of age, the CANS has been completed at the initial behavioral health assessment and updated at least every 180 days.

(D) No staff member can participate in the utilization review committee's deliberations about any member the staff member is treating, or has treated, directly.

(E) The utilization review committee must maintain minutes that are sufficiently detailed to show the decisions of each review, and the basis on which any decisions are made. The MassHealth agency may conduct audits of these minutes as it deems necessary.

(F) Based on the utilization review, the clinical director, or the clinical director's designee, must determine whether continuation, modification, or termination of treatment is necessary and promptly communicate this decision to the primary therapist.

429.436: Recordkeeping Requirements

(A) Each center must obtain written authorization from each member or the member's legal guardian to release information obtained by the center, to center staff, federal and state regulatory agencies, and, when applicable, referral providers, to the extent necessary to carry out the purposes of the center and to meet regulatory requirements. All such information must be released on a confidential basis and in accordance with all applicable requirements.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts MassHealth Provider Manual Series Mental Health Center Manual	Subchapter Number and Title 4. Program Regulations (130 CMR 429.000)	Page 4-21
	Transmittal Letter MHC-53	Date 9/1/2025

(B) Member Records.

- (1) A center must maintain member records in accordance with 130 CMR 450.000: *Administrative and Billing Regulations* and 105 CMR 140.000: *Licensure of Clinics*, in addition to applicable recordkeeping requirements for clinics under M.G.L. c. 111 § 70: *Patients' and Residents' Rights*. When a member is referred to any other provider, each center must maintain the original member record and forward a copy to the other provider.
- (2) Member records must be complete, accurate, and properly organized.
- (3) The member's record must include at least
 - (a) the member's name and case number, MassHealth identification number, address, telephone number, gender identity, date of birth, marital status, next of kin, school or employment status (or both), and date of initial contact;
 - (b) the place of service;
 - (c) a report of a physical examination performed within 12 months of the date of intake, including documentation the physical examination informed the treatment plan, or documentation that the member did not want to be examined and any stated reason for that preference;
 - (d) the name and address of the member's primary care physician or, if not available, another physician who has treated the member;
 - (e) the member's description of the problem, and any additional information from other sources, including the referral source, if any;
 - (f) the events precipitating the member's contact with the center;
 - (g) the relevant medical, psychosocial, educational, and vocational history;
 - (h) a comprehensive assessment of the member initiated at intake;
 - (i) the clinical impression of the member and a diagnostic formulation, including a specific diagnosis using standard nomenclature;
 - (j) short- and long-range goals that are measurable, realistic and obtainable, and a time frame for their achievement;
 - (k) the proposed schedule of therapeutic activities, both in and out of the center, necessary to achieve such goals and objectives and the responsibilities of each individual member of the interdisciplinary team;
 - (l) a schedule of dates for utilization review to determine the member's progress in accomplishing goals and objectives;
 - (m) the name, qualifications, and discipline of the therapist primarily responsible for the member;
 - (n) a written record of semiannual reviews (every six months) by the primary therapist, which relate to the short- and long-range goals;
 - (o) progress notes, including those related to the defined treatment plan goals on each visit written and signed by the primary therapist that include the therapist's discipline and degree;
 - (p) a treatment plan for the member signed by the primary therapist, or the supervisor of an unlicensed primary therapist, pursuant to 130 CMR 429.421(2);
 - (q) all information and correspondence regarding the member, including appropriately signed and dated consent forms;
 - (r) a drug-use profile (both prescribed and other);
 - (s) when the member is discharged, a discharge summary, including a brief summary of the member's condition and response to treatment, achievement of treatment and recovery goals, and recommendations for any future appropriate services;
 - (t) for members younger than 21 years of age, a CANS completed during the initial behavioral health assessment and updated at least every 180 days; and

Commonwealth of Massachusetts MassHealth Provider Manual Series Mental Health Center Manual	Subchapter Number and Title 4. Program Regulations (130 CMR 429.000)	Page 4-22
	Transmittal Letter MHC-53	Date 9/1/2025

(u) the outcomes from the utilization review planning team about the member's care or course of treatment.

(4) A brief history is acceptable for emergency or walk-in visits when the treatment plan does not call for extended care.

(C) Program Records. The mental health center must retain documentation reflecting compliance with the requirements of 130 CMR 429.000.

(D) Availability of Records. All records shall be made available to the MassHealth agency, upon request.

429.437: Written Policies and Procedures

Each mental health center must have and observe written policies and procedures that include

- (A) a statement of its philosophy and objectives and of the geographical area served;
- (B) an intake policy;
- (C) admission procedures, including criteria for client admission and procedures for multidisciplinary review of each individual referral;
- (D) treatment procedures, including, but not limited to, development of the treatment plan, case assignment, case review, discharge planning, and follow-up on members who leave the center voluntarily or involuntarily;
- (E) a medication policy that includes prescription, administration, and monitoring data;
- (F) a referral policy, including procedures for ensuring uninterrupted and coordinated member care upon transfer;
- (G) procedures for walk-in members, and clinical emergencies during operating and nonoperating hours;
- (H) recordkeeping policies, including what information must be included in each record, and procedures to ensure confidentiality;
- (I) personnel and management policies, including policies for hiring, training, evaluation, supervision, and termination protocol for all staff;
- (J) a utilization review plan; and
- (K) explicit fee policies with respect to billing third-party payers, cancellation procedures, and fee reductions.

429.438: Administration

(A) Organization. Each center must establish an organization chart showing major operating service programs of the center with staff divisions, administrative personnel in charge of each service program, and their lines of authority, responsibility, and communication.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts MassHealth Provider Manual Series Mental Health Center Manual	Subchapter Number and Title 4. Program Regulations (130 CMR 429.000)	Page 4-23
	Transmittal Letter MHC-53	Date 9/1/2025

(B) Fiscal Management. Each center must establish a system of business management to ensure accurate accounting for sources and uses of funds, and proper expenditure of funds within established budgetary constraints and grant restrictions.

(C) Data Management. Each center must develop and maintain a statistical information system to collect member data, service utilization data, and fiscal data necessary for the effective operation of the center.

(D) Personnel Management. Each center must establish and maintain personnel policies and personnel records for each employee.

(E) Staff Development and Supervision.

(1) Each staff member must receive supervision appropriate to the person's skills and level of professional development. Supervision must be documented and must occur within the context of a formalized relationship with the supervisor and in accordance with 130 CMR 429.423(A).

(2) Documentation of supervision must be maintained by the supervisor.

(3) Each center must establish and implement procedures for staff training and evaluation. These procedures must require all staff who must be certified to administer the CANS, as described in 130 CMR 429.423(C), to complete the certification process established by EOHHS.

(F) All documents described above must be made available to the MassHealth agency upon request.

429.439: Satellite Clinics

All clinic locations must meet, independently of its parent clinic, all requirements in 130 CMR 429.000. Satellite locations must be able offer in-person services for up to 20 hours a week; use of telehealth is acceptable when agreed upon by the member.

429.440: Outreach

(A) Services rendered in a member's home, place of residence, or an appropriate, mutually agreed-upon community-based location by clinicians who are employed by the mental health center may be billed by the clinic when provided in accordance with the requirements of 130 CMR 429.000. All services provided in community-based settings must be provided in accordance with all provisions in 130 CMR 429.000.

(B) All mental health center services must be billed with a place of service (POS) code denoting the location in which the treatment was delivered.

429.441: Service Limitations

(A) Diagnostic and Treatment Services. The MassHealth agency pays for diagnostic and treatment services only when a professional staff member, as defined by 130 CMR 429.424, personally provides these services to the member or the member's family or personally consults with a professional outside of the center. The services must be provided to the member on an individual basis and are not reimbursable if they are an aspect of service delivery, as defined in 130 CMR 429.408(B).

Commonwealth of Massachusetts MassHealth Provider Manual Series Mental Health Center Manual	Subchapter Number and Title 4. Program Regulations (130 CMR 429.000)	Page 4-24
	Transmittal Letter MHC-53	Date 9/1/2025

(B) Multiple Visits on the Same Date of Service. The MassHealth agency pays for only one visit of a single type of service (except for diagnostics) provided to an individual member on one date of service. Return visits on the same date of service are not reimbursable except for the provision of crisis intervention. Services rendered by BHUC-designated providers and billed through the encounter bundled rate will be paid by the MassHealth agency pursuant to 101 CMR 306.00: *Rates for Mental Health Services Provided in Community Health Centers and Mental Health Centers.* The MassHealth agency pays only one encounter bundled rate for each member on one date of service. The MassHealth agency will pay for one encounter of psychological assessment, neuropsychological assessment, comprehensive community support services, recovery support navigator, recovery coach, and certified peer specialist on the same date of service as the encounter bundled rate. The MassHealth agency will pay for only one of the following on a single date of service: Structured Outpatient Addiction Program (SOAP), Enhanced Structured Outpatient Addiction Program (E-SOAP), Intensive Outpatient Program, or the encounter bundled rate.

(C) Multiple Therapies. The MassHealth agency pays for more than one mode of therapy used for a member during one week when it is clinically justified, and when any single approach has been shown to be necessary but insufficient. The need for multiple therapies must be documented in the member's record.

(D) Case Consultation.

- (1) The MassHealth agency pays only for a case consultation that involves a personal meeting with a professional of another agency. Personal meetings may be conducted via audio-only telephonic, audio-video, or in-person meetings.
- (2) The MassHealth agency pays for case consultation only when written communication and other nonreimbursable forms of communication clearly will not suffice. Such circumstances must be documented in the member's record. Such circumstances are limited to situations in which both the center and the other party are actively involved in treatment or management programs with the member (or family members) and where a lack of direct communication would impede a coordinated treatment program.
- (3) The MassHealth agency does not pay a center for court testimony.

(E) Family Consultation. The MassHealth agency pays for consultation with family or other responsible persons who are not eligible members when such consultation is integral to the treatment of the member.

(F) Group Therapy.

- (1) Payment is limited to one fee per group member with a maximum of 12 members per group regardless of the number of staff members present.
- (2) The MassHealth agency does not pay for group therapy when it is performed as an integral part of a psychiatric day treatment services.
- (3) The MassHealth agency does not pay for group therapy when it is performed as an integral part of intensive outpatient program services.

(G) Psychological Assessment. The MassHealth agency pays a center for psychological assessment only when the following conditions are met.

- (1) A psychologist who meets the qualifications in 130 CMR 429.424(C) either personally administers the assessment or personally supervises such assessment during its administration by an unlicensed psychologist trainee.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts MassHealth Provider Manual Series Mental Health Center Manual	Subchapter Number and Title 4. Program Regulations (130 CMR 429.000)	Page 4-25
	Transmittal Letter MHC-53	Date 9/1/2025

(2) A psychologist must determine the specific tests to administer. All tests must be published, valid, and in general use, as defined by listing the current edition of the *Mental Measurements Yearbook* or by conformity to the *Standards for Educational and Psychological Tests* of the American Psychological Association.

(3) Except as explained below, the MassHealth agency does not pay for psychological assessment that includes only

- (a) periodic assessment to measure the member's response to psychotherapy;
- (b) self-rating forms and other paper-and-pencil instruments, unless administered as part of a comprehensive battery of tests;
- (c) group forms of intelligence tests; or
- (d) a repetition of any psychological assessment or assessments provided by the mental health center or any independent psychologist to the same member within the preceding six months, unless the following conditions exist and are documented in the billing provider's medical record:
 - 1. psychological assessment is provided to ascertain changes relating to suicidal, homicidal, toxic, traumatic, or neurological conditions of the member; or
 - 2. psychological assessment is provided to ascertain changes following such special forms of treatment or interventions as electroconvulsive therapy (ECT) or psychiatric hospitalization.

(4) A responsible party requests the assessment of a member. Responsible parties include, but are not limited to, physicians, clinics, hospitals, schools, courts, group homes, or state agencies, and must be documented in the member's record. Such documentation must include the referral source and the reason for the referral.

(H) Crisis Intervention. The MassHealth agency pays for crisis intervention as defined in 130 CMR 429.402.

- (1) This service is limited to face-to-face contacts, which includes telehealth, with the member.
- (2) The need for crisis intervention must be fully documented in the member's record for each date of crisis intervention services.
- (3) This service is limited to one initial unit of service and up to three add-on units of service per date of service.

(I) Outreach Services Provided in Nursing Facilities.

(1) The MassHealth agency pays a center for diagnostic and treatment services provided to a member residing in a nursing facility under the following circumstances and conditions:

- (a) the nursing facility specifically requests treatment, and the member's record at the nursing facility documents this request;
- (b) the treatment provided does not duplicate services that should be provided in the nursing facility; and
- (c) such services are generally available through the center to members not residing in that nursing facility.

(2) The following conditions must also be met:

- (a) the member's record at the center must contain all of the information listed in 130 CMR 429.436;
- (b) the member's record at the nursing facility must contain information pertaining to diagnostic and treatment services including, but not limited to, medication, treatment plan, progress notes on services, case review, and utilization review; and

Commonwealth of Massachusetts MassHealth Provider Manual Series Mental Health Center Manual	Subchapter Number and Title 4. Program Regulations (130 CMR 429.000)	Page 4-26
	Transmittal Letter MHC-53	Date 9/1/2025

(c) the member must function at a sufficient level to benefit from treatment as established by a clinical evaluation and by accepted standards of practice.

REGULATORY AUTHORITY

130 CMR 429.000: M.G.L. c. 118E, §§ 7 and 12.