

NOTICE OF AGENCY ACTION

SUBJECT: MassHealth: Amendment to the Standard and CarePlus Alternative Benefit Plan State Plans (Establishment of Standard and Intensive Outpatient Rehabilitative Services Provided by Community Behavioral Health Centers, Establishment of Licensed Independent Clinical Social Workers as Other Licensed Practitioners, Expansion of Psychologist Services, Establishment of Mental Health Center Rehabilitative Services in Outreach Settings and through Telehealth Modalities, and Establishment of Substance Use Disorder Clinic Rehabilitative Services in Outreach Settings and through Telehealth Modalities)

AGENCY: Massachusetts Executive Office of Health and Human Services

Background

The Massachusetts Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS) has determined that certain conforming amendments to its Standard and CarePlus alternative benefit plan state plans (ABP state plans) are warranted.

EOHHS is confirming coverage of the following:

- rehabilitative services provided by mental health centers and substance use disorder clinics to cover outreach services, including outreach services provided in nursing facilities, and use of telehealth modalities
- rehabilitative standard and intensive outpatient behavioral health services provided by community behavioral health centers, including mobile crisis intervention services
- other licensed practitioner services provided by licensed independent clinical social workers
- other licensed practitioner services provided by psychologists, including diagnostic evaluation, consultation, and therapeutic services

These changes align with various state regulatory changes. EOHHS is making conforming changes in the ABP state plans to confirm this coverage under these plans as well.

Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Tribal Services Consultation

The amendments comply with 42 CFR 440.345, which is related to full access to early and periodic screening, diagnostic, and treatment services. EOHHS has followed the tribal consultation noticing process established under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 and set forth in its approved state plan.

Public Comments

EOHHS will hold a public comment period until March 17, 2023, about these ABP state plan amendments. You can submit written comments by emailing ehs-regulations@state.ma.us.

Please email comments as an attached Word document or as text within the body of the email, with the phrase “ABP Behavioral Health” in the subject line. All submissions must include the sender’s full name and email address.

Individuals who cannot send comments by email should mail written comments to

EOHHS, c/o Debby Briggs
100 Hancock Street, 6th Floor
Quincy, MA 02171

To be considered, written comments must be received by 5:00 p.m. on March 17, 2023.

Posted: February 21, 2023