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NOTICE OF AGENCY ACTION

SUBJECT: MassHealth: Amendments to the Standard and CarePlus Alternative Benefit Plan State Plans

AGENCY: Massachusetts Executive Office of Health and Human Services

Essential Health Benefits benchmark plan update

Pursuant to a CMCS Informational Bulletin entitled *Alternative Benefit Plan Conforming Changes*, published January 28, 2016, the Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS) is filing an amendment to the Standard and CarePlus Alternative Benefit Plan (ABP) State Plans to update the Essential Health Benefits (EHB) benchmark plan.

Currently, the Standard ABP and CarePlus ABP EHB benchmark plans are the 2012 Government Employees Health Association (GEHA) plan, standard option. Effective January 1, EOHHS was required to select one of several 2014 plan year EHB benchmark plan options for both Standard ABP and CarePlus ABP. The options were:

- (1) Small group market health plan: The largest health plan by enrollment in any of the three largest small group insurance products by enrollment, in the State's small group market;
- (2) State employee health benefit plan: Any of the largest three employee health benefit plan options by enrollment offered and generally available to State employees in Massachusetts;
- (3) FEHBP plan: Any of the largest three national Federal Employees Health Benefits Program (FEHBP) plan options by aggregate enrollment that is offered to all health-benefits-eligible federal employees; or,
- (4) HMO: The coverage plan with the largest insured commercial non-Medicaid enrollment offered by a health maintenance organization operating in Massachusetts.

EOHHS has selected a plan from option (3), specifically the 2014 GEHA plan, standard option, to serve as the EHB benchmark plan for both Standard ABP and CarePlus ABP. This selection will have no impact on MassHealth's provision of services under the Standard ABP and CarePlus ABP.

Clinic Services

CMS has recently required EOHHS to refine the Medicaid State Plan description of services covered under the clinic services category. As a result, EOHHS has determined that some conforming amendments to its Standard ABP and CarePlus ABP state plans are warranted. In addition, EOHHS is amending the Standard ABP and CarePlus ABP State Plans to reflect the new Limited Service Clinic provider type. These amendments do not represent a change in coverage.

EPSDT and Tribal Consultation

The amendments will have no impact on MassHealth's provision of EPSDT 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 28, 2017, relative to these ABP State Plan Amendments. Individuals may submit written comments by e-mailing ehs-regulations@state.ma.us. Please submit electronic comments as an attached Word document or as text within the body of the e-mail with the phrase "ABP 2014 GEHA Plan Selection" or "ABP Clinic Services" in the subject line, as applicable. All submissions must include the sender's full name and address.

Individuals who are unable to submit comments by e-mail 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 28, 2017.