

Notice of Proposed Agency Action

SUBJECT: MassHealth: Payment for Acute Inpatient Hospital Services, effective June 16, 2021

AGENCY: Massachusetts Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS), Office of Medicaid

EOHHS hereby announces the payment methodologies that will apply to acute inpatient hospitals for certain admissions, effective as of June 16, 2021.

As described in Chart C to the Rate Year 2021 (RY21) Notice of Final Agency Action, published on or about October 31, 2020 ("Final RY21 Notice"), the MassHealth Diagnostic Related Group (DRG) weights for five specific DRGs (including all severity of illness (SOI)) will change as of the first day following the last day of the Governor's Declaration of a State of Emergency Within the Commonwealth Due to COVID-19. These five DRGs are 4, 5, 130, 137, and 720. Because the last day of the Governor's Declaration of a State of Emergency Within the Commonwealth Due to COVID-19 is June 15, 2021, the purpose of this notice is to clarify that June 16, 2021 is the date on which the MassHealth DRG weights for these five DRGs will change.

Therefore, in accordance with Chart C to the Final RY21 Notice, EOHHS hereby announces that, effective June 16, 2021, through the end of Rate Year 2021 (RY21), the MassHealth DRG weights for the five previously identified DRGs will change as follows:

DRG & SOI	DRG Description	MassHealth DRG Weight Effective Nov. 1, 2020 through June 15, 2021 (RY21 Emergency Period)	MassHealth DRG Weight Effective June 16, 2021 through the end of RY21 (RY21 Post-Emergency Period)	Mean LOS
4-1	TRACHEOSTOMY W MV 96+ HOURS W EXTENSIVE PROCEDURE	6.6905	5.5754	41.16
4-2	TRACHEOSTOMY W MV 96+ HOURS W EXTENSIVE PROCEDURE	7.6312	6.3593	41.16
4-3	TRACHEOSTOMY W MV 96+ HOURS W EXTENSIVE PROCEDURE	12.6473	10.5394	41.16
4-4	TRACHEOSTOMY W MV 96+ HOURS W EXTENSIVE PROCEDURE	18.3883	15.3236	41.16
5-1	TRACHEOSTOMY W MV 96+ HOURS W/O EXTENSIVE PROCEDURE	4.7998	3.9998	29.15
5-2	TRACHEOSTOMY W MV 96+ HOURS W/O EXTENSIVE PROCEDURE	5.0534	4.2112	29.15
5-3	TRACHEOSTOMY W MV 96+ HOURS W/O EXTENSIVE PROCEDURE	7.8580	6.5483	29.15

DRG & SOI	DRG Description	MassHealth DRG Weight Effective Nov. 1, 2020 through June 15, 2021 (RY21 Emergency Period)	MassHealth DRG Weight Effective June 16, 2021 through the end of RY21 (RY21 Post-Emergency Period)	Mean LOS
5-4	TRACHEOSTOMY W MV 96+ HOURS W/O EXTENSIVE PROCEDURE	10.8589	9.0491	29.15
130-1	RESPIRATORY SYSTEM DIAGNOSIS W VENTILATOR SUPPORT 96+ HOURS	3.1644	2.6370	15.09
130-2	RESPIRATORY SYSTEM DIAGNOSIS W VENTILATOR SUPPORT 96+ HOURS	3.2442	2.7035	15.09
130-3	RESPIRATORY SYSTEM DIAGNOSIS W VENTILATOR SUPPORT 96+ HOURS	3.8878	3.2398	15.09
130-4	RESPIRATORY SYSTEM DIAGNOSIS W VENTILATOR SUPPORT 96+ HOURS	5.2542	4.3785	15.09
137-1	MAJOR RESPIRATORY INFECTIONS & INFLAMMATIONS	0.7027	0.5856	6.25
137-2	MAJOR RESPIRATORY INFECTIONS & INFLAMMATIONS	0.7735	0.6446	6.25
137-3	MAJOR RESPIRATORY INFECTIONS & INFLAMMATIONS	1.0528	0.8773	6.25
137-4	MAJOR RESPIRATORY INFECTIONS & INFLAMMATIONS	1.7300	1.4417	6.25
720-1	SEPTICEMIA & DISSEMINATED INFECTIONS	0.5034	0.4195	6.20
720-2	SEPTICEMIA & DISSEMINATED INFECTIONS	0.6425	0.5354	6.20
720-3	SEPTICEMIA & DISSEMINATED INFECTIONS	0.9888	0.8240	6.20
720-4	SEPTICEMIA & DISSEMINATED INFECTIONS	2.0645	1.7204	6.20

The RY21 Emergency Period- and RY21 Post-Emergency Period-MassHealth DRG weight and mean length of stay (LOS) for each DRG are the same as those set forth in Chart C to the Final RY21 Notice.

The hospital payment methods described in this Notice are in accordance with state and federal law and are within the range of reasonable payment levels to acute hospitals.

EOHHS estimates that this clarification will have no impact on annual aggregate expenditures for MassHealth acute inpatient hospital services.

Other than as set forth in this Notice, the RY21 acute inpatient hospital payment methods described in the Final RY21 Notice, as modified by the Rate Year 2021 Notice of Final Agency Action, published on or about January 15, 2021 (the “January 15 Notice,”), and the Rate Year 2021 Notice of Final Agency Action, published on or about February 11, 2021 (the “February 11

Notice”), will remain unchanged. The Final RY21 Notice, the January 15 Notice, and the February 11 Notice are available under the heading “Acute Hospital Federal Fiscal Year 2021 Notices” on the “Special notices for acute hospitals” page of the MassHealth website at www.mass.gov/service-details/special-notices-for-acute-hospitals. For further information, or to provide written comments regarding this action, you may also contact Steven Sauter at the Executive Office of Health and Human Services, MassHealth Office of Providers and Pharmacy Programs, 100 Hancock Street, 6th Floor, Quincy, MA 02171, or at steven.sauter@mass.gov. EOHHS specifically invites comments regarding the impact of the proposed action on member access to care.

Statutory Authority: M.G.L. c. 118E; St. 2020, c. 227; St. 2020, c. 260; St. 2012, c. 224; 42 USC 1396a; 42 USC 1396b.

Related Regulations: 130 CMR 410, 415, 450; 42 CFR Parts 431 and 447.

Posted: June 4, 2021