

NOTICE OF PROPOSED AGENCY ACTION

SUBJECT: MassHealth Payment Policies related to a Nonpublic Ambulance Supplemental Payment Program

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

EOHHS intends to amend its Medicaid State Plan and applicable regulations in first quarter of state fiscal year 2022 to implement a supplemental payment program for nonpublic ambulance providers, consistent with the requirements of M.G.L. c. 29, § 2KKKKK. To be eligible for this supplemental payment, an ambulance provider must be nongovernmental, licensed by the department of public health under section 6 of chapter 111C of the Massachusetts General Laws, and enrolled as a provider for the Massachusetts Medicaid program (“MassHealth”).

EOHHS is making these changes to increase MassHealth members’ access to medical services provided by nonpublic ambulance providers and to comply with the requirements of M.G.L. c. 29, § 2KKKKK and M.G.L. c. 118E, § 67A. The changes are projected to increase annual aggregate MassHealth fee-for-service expenditures by approximately \$60.3 million. The supplemental payments will be based upon non-public ambulance providers’ Medicaid fee-for-service ambulance utilization beginning with dates of service on or after July 1, 2021, and allocated to promote the provider capacity, access and quality management needs of the MassHealth program. Payments will be subject to available state and federal funding and federal approval.

The payments to eligible non-public ambulance providers described above shall not exceed the sum of the difference between the Medicaid payments otherwise made to these providers for the provision of ambulance services and the amount that would have been paid at the equivalent average commercial rate, as determined by EOHHS. They will be paid periodically, after the end of each quarter of relevant utilization.

Individuals may submit written comments by emailing ehs-regulations@state.ma.us. Please submit electronic comments as an attached Word document or as text within the body of the email with “Nonpublic Ambulance Supplemental Payment Program” in the subject line. All submissions must include the sender’s full name and address. Individuals unable to submit comments by email should mail written comments to EOHHS, c/o D. Briggs, 100 Hancock St, 6th Fl, Quincy, MA 02171. Copies of the proposed changes will be available at EOHHS or may be viewed at <https://www.mass.gov/servicedetails/executive-office-of-health-and-human-services-public-notices>. EOHHS will also hold a public hearing regarding these changes, and will post the location, date, and time of the public hearing to the above website. (June 30, 2021)