Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Health and Human Services
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Under the authority of M.G.L. c. 118E and in accordance with M.G.L. c. 30A, the Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS) will hold a remote public hearing on November 13, 2026, at 12:00 p.m. relative to the adoption of amendments to the following regulation.

101 CMR 315.00: Rates for Vision Care Services and Ophthalmic Materials

The proposed regulation contains rates effective for dates of service on or after May 1, 2027. There is no fiscal impact on cities and towns.

The proposed amendments do not change the current rates. There are no changes in the methods and standards for setting rates for vision care services and ophthalmic materials.

The proposed amendments are in compliance with the requirement of M.G.L. Chapter 118E Section 13C, which requires that rates established by EOHHS for health care services be "adequate to meet the costs incurred by efficiently and economically operated facilities providing care and services in conformity with applicable state and federal laws and regulations and quality and safety standards and which are within the financial capacity of the commonwealth".

In addition, the proposed amendments include a technical correction that adds the "Filing and Reporting Requirements" section which is included in all EOHHS rate regulations. This standard section describes the penalty for noncompliance with cost reporting requirements governed by 957 CMR 6.00.

There is no fiscal impact associated with the proposed amendments.

Register to testify and get instructions to join the hearing online at mass.gov/info-details/executive-office-of-health-and-human-services-public-hearings. You can join by phone at (646) 558-8656. The meeting ID is 935 397 8200#.

You can submit written testimony instead of, or in addition to, live testimony. Submit written testimony to ehs-regulations@mass.gov as an attached Word or PDF document or as text within the body of the email. Put the name of the regulation in the subject line. All written testimony must include the sender's full name, mailing address, and

organization or affiliation, if any. You can also mail written testimony to EOHHS, c/o D. Briggs, 1 Enterprise Drive, 4th Floor, Quincy, MA 02171. Written testimony will be accepted until 5:00 p.m. on November 13, 2026, EOHHS specifically invites comments as to how the amendments may affect member access to care for MassHealth-covered services.

You can review the current draft of the proposed regulation at mass.gov/info-details/executive-office-of-health-and-human-services-public-hearings. You can also request a copy in writing from MassHealth Publications, 1 Enterprise Drive, 4th Floor, Quincy, MA 02171.

Email the Disability Accommodations Ombudsman at ADAAccommodations@mass.gov to make special accommodation requests. You can also call (617) 847-3468, TTY: (617) 847-3788. Please allow two weeks to schedule sign language interpreters.

EOHHS may adopt a revised version of the proposed regulation after considering relevant comments and any other practical alternatives that come to its attention.

In case of inclement weather or other emergency, hearing cancellation announcements will be posted on the MassHealth website at mass.gov/info-details/executive-office-of-health-and-human-services-public-hearings.

Date of Newspaper Ad: October 23, 2026

Small Business Impact Statement
(As required by M.G.L. c. 30A §§ 2, 3 & 5)

CMR No and Title: 101 CMR 315.00: Rates for Vision Care Services and Ophthalmic Materials
Estimate of the Number of Small Businesses Impacted by the Regulation: There are approximately 500 optometrists, 88 opticians, and 5 ocularists that are enrolled in MassHealth network.

Write Yes or No	Explain Briefly
No	Will small businesses have to create, file, or issue additional reports? The proposed amendments will not require small businesses to create, file, or issue additional reports.
No	Will small businesses have to implement additional recordkeeping procedures? The proposed amendments will not require small businesses to implement additional recordkeeping procedures.
No	Will small businesses have to provide additional administrative oversight? The proposed amendments will not require small businesses to provide additional administrative oversight.
No	Will small businesses have to hire additional employees in order to comply with the proposed regulation? The proposed amendments will not require small businesses to hire additional employees in order to comply with the proposed regulation.
No	Does compliance with the regulation require small businesses to hire other professionals (e.g. a lawyer, accountant, engineer, etc.)? The proposed amendments will not require small businesses to hire other professionals to comply with the regulation.
No	Does the regulation require small businesses to purchase a product or make any other capital investments in order to comply with the regulation? The proposed amendments will not require small businesses to purchase a product or make any other capital investments in order to comply with the regulation.
No	Are performance standards more appropriate than design/operational standards to accomplish the regulatory objective? (Performance standards express requirements in terms of outcomes, giving the regulated party flexibility to achieve regulatory objectives and design/operational standards specify exactly what actions regulated parties must take.)

Write Yes or No	Explain Briefly
	The regulation is required by statute under MGL Chapter 118E, Section 13D, and establishes the specific rates to be paid by governmental units to providers of vision care services.
No	Do any other regulations duplicate or conflict with the proposed regulation? No other regulations duplicate or conflict with the proposed regulation.
Yes	Does the regulation require small businesses to cooperate with audits, inspections or other regulatory enforcement activities? This regulation requires MassHealth-enrolled vision providers to cooperate with the reporting requirements described in 101 CMR 315.05. EOHHS proposes to make a technical correction by adding the "Filing and Reporting Requirements" section, which was inadvertently omitted from the current regulation. This is not a new requirement for providers and the technical correction will enhance clarity and consistency with other EOHHS regulations. This section is a standard section that is included in all EOHHS rate regulations.
No	Does the regulation require small businesses to provide educational services to keep up to date with regulatory requirements? The proposed amendments will not require small businesses to provide educational services to keep up to date with regulatory requirements.
No	Is the regulation likely to *deter* the formation of small businesses in Massachusetts? The regulation is unlikely to deter or encourage the formation of small businesses in Massachusetts. This regulation governs payments for vision care services provided to publicly aided individuals and is applied uniformly among providers.
No	Is the regulation likely to *encourage* the formation of small businesses in Massachusetts? The regulation is unlikely to deter or encourage the formation of small businesses in Massachusetts. This regulation governs payments for vision care services provided to publicly aided individuals and is applied uniformly among providers.
No	Does the regulation provide for less stringent compliance or reporting requirements for small businesses? The regulation does not provide for less stringent compliance or reporting requirements for small businesses, since it is in accordance with the statutory requirement.
No	Does the regulation establish less stringent schedules or deadlines for compliance or reporting requirements for small businesses?

Write Yes or No	Explain Briefly
	The regulation does not provide for less stringent schedules or deadlines for compliance or reporting requirements for small businesses, since it is in accordance with the statutory requirement.
No	Did the agency consolidate or simplify compliance or reporting requirements for small businesses? This regulation does not consolidate or simplify compliance or reporting requirements for small businesses. These requirements are applied uniformly to all vision care providers to maintain consistency in the care provided to publicly aided individuals.
No	Can performance standards for small businesses replace design or operational standards without hindering delivery of the regulatory objective? The regulation establishes uniform conditions of payment for the provision of vision care services to publicly aided individuals. These requirements are applied uniformly, regardless of the size of the provider's business, to maintain consistency in the care provided to publicly aided individuals.
No	Are there alternative regulatory methods that would minimize the adverse impact on small businesses? The regulation does not have an adverse impact on small businesses and governs payments for vision care services provided to publicly aided individuals. It is applied uniformly regardless of whether the provider is a small business.