

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Division of Medical Assistance**

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Pursuant to the authority of M.G.L. c. 6A, section 16 and in accordance with M.G.L. c. 30A, the Division of Medical Assistance (the Division) will hold a remote public hearing on Monday, January 30, 2023, at the times listed below relative to the adoption of the following regulations.

1. 1:00 p.m.: 130 CMR 501.000: MassHealth: General Policies. The proposed amendments to 130 CMR 501.000 update the Basic Benefit Level (BBL) definition which governs which health insurance plans are eligible for MassHealth Premium Assistance payments. Proposed changes also include adjusting how the existing deductible and out of pocket maximum thresholds are set, and clarifying the existing restriction on the use of Health Savings Accounts and similar instruments to reduce the deductible threshold.

2. 1:30 p.m.: 130 CMR 505.000: MassHealth: Coverage Types. The proposed amendments to 130 CMR 505.000 clarify the definition of ‘young adult,’ update the postpartum period to 12 months, and update the extended eligibility section to comply with MassHealth’s interpretation of federal law. Proposed changes also remove references to the now-defunct Small Business Employee Premium Assistance program.

3. 2:00 p.m.: 130 CMR 506.000: MassHealth: Financial Requirements. The proposed amendments to 130 CMR 506.000 clarify the existing Premium Assistance overpayments process, introduce the new Premium Assistance overpayments hardship waiver process, and remove references to the now defunct Student Health Insurance Plan (SHIP) Premium Assistance and Small Business Employee Premium Assistance (SBEPA) programs throughout the chapter. Updates are also proposed to comply with the Tax Cut and Jobs act of 2017, Public Law 115-97, and to remove references to the now defunct Small Business Employee Premium Assistance (SBEPA) program.

The proposed regulations are planned to go into effect no sooner than May 2023. There is no fiscal impact on cities and towns.

To register to testify at the hearing and to get instructions on how to join the hearing online, go to www.mass.gov/service-details/masshealth-public-hearings. To join the hearing by phone, call (646) 558-8656 and enter meeting ID 935 397 8200# when prompted.

You may also submit written testimony instead of, or in addition to, live testimony. To submit written testimony, please email your testimony to masshealthpublicnotice@mass.gov as an attached Word or PDF document or as text within the body of the email with 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. Individuals who are unable to submit testimony by email should mail written testimony to EOHHS, c/o D. Briggs, 100 Hancock Street, 6th Floor, Quincy, MA 02171. Written testimony will be accepted through 5:00 p.m. on Monday, January 30, 2023. The Division of Medical Assistance ("the Division") specifically invites comments as to how the amendments may affect beneficiary access to care.

To review the current draft of the proposed actions, go to www.mass.gov/service-details/masshealth-public-hearings or request a copy in writing from MassHealth Publications, 100 Hancock Street, 6th Floor, Quincy, MA 02171.

Special accommodation requests may be directed to the Disability Accommodations Ombudsman by email at ADAaccommodations@mass.gov or by phone at (617) 847-3468 (TTY: (617) 847-3788 for people who are deaf, hard of hearing, or speech disabled). Please allow two weeks to schedule sign language interpreters.

The Division may adopt a revised version of the proposed actions taking into account 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 www.mass.gov/service-details/masshealth-public-hearings.

January 4, 2023