

**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 Monday, May 20, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. relative to the adoption of amendments to the following regulation.

101 CMR 358.00: Rates for Applied Behavior Analysis

The proposed regulation contains rates effective for dates of service on or after October 1, 2024. There is no fiscal impact on cities and towns.

Under M.G.L. Chapter 118E, Section 13D, the Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS) is required to establish and periodically review the rates to be paid by governmental units for non-institutional health care services, including rates of payment for applied behavior analysis (ABA) services. EOHHS performed a review of the payment rates set forth in 101 CMR 358.00 and proposes to maintain the current rates established within the regulation. ABA services are an array of home and community-based services for MassHealth members younger than 21 years of age with a diagnosis of autism spectrum disorder.

It is estimated that annual aggregate MassHealth expenditures will not change as a result of the proposed amendments. The amendments are not anticipated to impose new costs on small businesses, and any impact on small business providers will vary based on the volume of services provided.

EOHHS is making these changes, subject to federal approval, to ensure that payments are reasonable and adequate to meet the costs that must be incurred by efficiently and economically operated facilities, and to ensure that payment rates are consistent with efficiency, economy, and quality of care.

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/executive-office-of-health-and-human-services-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 ehs-regulations@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 May 20, 2024. EOHHS specifically invites comments as to how the amendments may affect beneficiary access to care for MassHealth-covered services.

To review the current draft of the proposed regulation, go to www.mass.gov/service-details/executive-office-of-health-and-human-services-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.

EOHHS may adopt a revised version of the proposed regulation 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/executive-office-of-health-and-human-services-public-hearings.

April 29, 2024