

**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 Friday, December 6, 2024, at 12:00 p.m., relative to the adoption of amendments to the following regulation:

101 CMR 313.00: Rates for Freestanding Clinics Providing Abortion and Sterilization Services.

The proposed regulation contains rates effective for dates of service on or after May 1, 2025.

The proposed amendments increase the current rates by adding a prospective cost adjustment factor (CAF) of 2.27%. The CAF was developed using the optimistic forecast of the Massachusetts Consumer Price Index (CPI) developed by IHS Markit. The CAF of 2.27% was calculated using a base period of quarter one of calendar year 2025, and a two-year prospective rate period of quarter two of calendar year 2025 through quarter one of calendar year 2027. All rates currently established as individual consideration (IC) or that reference to other regulations in 101 CMR 313.00 are proposed to remain the same. EOHHS also proposes to amend 101 CMR 313.00 to reflect updated terminology and current policy.

EOHHS is proposing these changes, subject to federal approval, to ensure that payments are consistent with efficiency, economy, and quality of care and satisfy the requirements of M.G.L. 118E, sections 13C and 13D. It is estimated that annual aggregate MassHealth expenditures will increase by \$46,000 as a result of the proposed amendments. There is no fiscal impact on cities and towns. The proposed 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.

To register to testify at the hearing and to get instructions on how to join the hearing online, go to www.mass.gov/info-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 December 6, 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/info-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/info-details/executive-office-of-health-and-human-services-public-hearings.