

**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 13, 2024, at 3 p.m., relative to the adoption of amendments to the following regulation.

101 CMR 362.00: Rates for Community Support Program Services

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

Under M.G.L. Chapter 118E, Section 13D, EOHHS is required to establish and periodically review the rates to be paid by governmental units for noninstitutional health care services, including rates of payment for community support program (CSP) services. CSP services are diversionary behavioral health services that help individuals remain in community-based settings, rather than 24-hour level of care.

EOHHS performed a review of the payment rates set forth in 101 CMR 362.00 and proposes to align the standard CSP rate with the rate for recovery support navigator (RSN) being proposed in 101 CMR 444.00: *Rates for Certain Substance Use Disorder Services*. EOHHS also proposes to increase the rates for CSP for homeless individuals (CSP-HI), CSP for justice involved (CSP-JI), and CSP tenancy preservation program (CSP-TPP) by a prospective cost adjustment factor of 2.27%. The cost-adjustment factor (CAF) was calculated using the Massachusetts-specific Consumer Price Index (CPI) Fall 2023 forecast developed by IHS Markit Economics.

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 \$37,000 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/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 p.m. on December 13, 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). 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.

November 22, 2024