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, April 4, 2025, at 11:00 a.m. relative to the adoption of amendments to the following regulation.

101 CMR 306.00: Rates for Mental Health Services Provided in Community Health Centers and Mental Health Centers

The proposed regulation contains rates effective for dates of service on or after August 1, 2025. There is no fiscal impact on cities and towns.

101 CMR 306.00 governs rates of payment used by state governmental units for mental health center services. Pursuant to 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 to providers of noninstitutional healthcare services, including mental health center services provided under the MassHealth program.

Effective August 1, 2025, the regulations propose to

1) update terminology and current policy;

2) adopt by reference the rates for enhanced structured outpatient addiction program (E-SOAP), structured outpatient addiction program (SOAP) services, and recovery support navigators as established in 101 CMR 444.00: *Rates for Certain Substance Use Disorder Services*;

3) adopt by reference the rates for peer recovery coaches as established in 101 CMR
346.00: *Rates for Certain Substance-Related and Addictive Disorders Programs*;
4) establish rates for psychological testing services, removing the reference to 101 CMR
329.00: *Rates for Psychological and Independent Clinical Social Work Services*;

5) establish rates for certain medication visit services codes, removing the reference to 101 CMR 317.00: *Rates for Medicine Services* for those certain medication visit codes; 6) increase the rate for certified peer specialist services;

7) increase the rates for 14 existing mental health center services codes (90791, 90791-HA, 90832, 90833, 90834, 90836, 90837, 90839, 90840, 90846, 90847, 90849, 90853, and 90853-EP);

8) establish encounter bundled rates for mental health centers designated as behavioral health urgent care services providers, including delineating encounter bundle services;

9) establish psychiatric diagnostic evaluation with medical services code 90792;

10) establish doctoral-level child psychiatrist clinician licensure-level code modifier and rates;

11) establish code modifier for services provided by advanced practice registered nurse licensure-level; and

12) remove the code and rate for emergency services program (ESP) services, as these services have shifted to other provider types.

EOHHS is proposing these amendments, subject to federal approval, to ensure that payment rates are consistent with efficiency, economy, and quality of care, and to satisfy the requirements of M.G.L. 118E, sections 13C and 13D. It is estimated that annual aggregate fiscal impact on the fee-for-service (FFS) MassHealth expenditure will increase by approximately \$1.36 million as a result of these proposed rates.

To register to testify at the hearing and to get instructions on how to join the hearing online, go to <u>www.mass.gov/info-details/executive-office-of-health-and-human-services-public-hearings</u>. 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 <u>ehs-regulations@mass.gov</u> 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 Friday, April 4, 2025. 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 <u>www.mass.gov/info-</u> <u>details/executive-office-of-health-and-human-services-public-hearings</u> 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 <u>ADAAccommodations@mass.gov</u> 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 <u>www.mass.gov/info-details/executive-office-of-health-and-human-services-public-hearings</u>.

March 14, 2025