

**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, November 13, 2026, at 10:00 a.m.** on the emergency adoption of amendments to the following regulation.

101 CMR 206.00: Standard Payments to Nursing Facilities

The regulation will go into effect as an emergency on October 1, 2026. The proposed amendments implement fiscal year 2027 (FY27) budget requirements. The following adjustments are being made to the rates, consistent with the FY27 budget.

- Updating standard nursing, operating, capital, pediatric, and other facility-specific rates for rate year 2027. The amendments apply a 7.04% cost adjustment factor to both nursing and operating standard payments and updates the patient-driven payment model (PDPM) nursing standard payment amounts accordingly. The operating cost standard payment increases to \$128.14 per day. The capital cost adjustment factor is also updated to 6.65%.
- Revising financial statement reporting requirements.
- Revising the substance use disorder (SUD) add-on and replacing the SUD induction-period add-on with a medication for opioid use disorder (MOUD) add-on, including new eligibility, staffing, and compliance requirements.
- Reducing the bariatric add-on from \$300 to \$200 per member per day and clarifying its applicability with other add-ons.
- Strengthening staffing incentives by establishing an 8% downward adjustment for facilities at or below 3.00 hours per patient day (HPPD), while exempting facilities maintaining at least 4.00 HPPD from the direct care cost quotient (DCC-Q) downward adjustment.
- Removing expired COVID-19 preparedness payments and the prior rate year's \$25 million statewide supplemental payment.
- Making annual conforming and technical updates to dates, reporting periods, quality measures, PDPM references, and other payment provisions.

The estimated annual fiscal impact of these amendments is \$29,670,000 for rate-related amendments.

Register to testify and get instructions on how to join the hearing online at mass.gov/info-details/executive-office-of-health-and-human-services-public-hearings. You can join by phone at (646) 558-8656. The meeting ID is 935 397 8200#.

You can submit written testimony instead of, or in addition to, live testimony. Submit written testimony to ehs-regulations@mass.gov as an attached Word or PDF document or as text within the body of the email. Put 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. You can also mail written testimony to EOHHS, c/o D. Briggs, 1 Enterprise Drive, 4th Floor, Quincy, MA 02171. Written testimony will be accepted until 5:00 p.m. November 13, 2026. EOHHS specifically invites comments as to how the amendments may affect beneficiary access to care.

You can review the emergency regulation at mass.gov/info-details/executive-office-of-health-and-human-services-public-hearings or request a copy in writing from MassHealth Publications, 1 Enterprise Drive, 4th Floor, Quincy, MA 02171.

Email the Disability Accommodations Ombudsman at ADAACcommodations@mass.gov to make special accommodation requests. You can also call (617) 847-3468 (TTY: [617] 847-3788). Please allow two weeks to schedule sign language interpreters.

EOHHS may adopt a revised version of the emergency regulation after considering 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 mass.gov/info-details/executive-office-of-health-and-human-services-public-hearings.

September 23, 2026