



Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Health and Human Services
Office of Medicaid
www.mass.gov/masshealth

MassHealth
Nursing Facility Bulletin 149
July 2020

TO: Nursing Facilities Participating in MassHealth

FROM: Amanda Cassel Kraft, Acting Medicaid Director

RE: **Family Assistance Coverage Expansion for Nursing Facility Services - Updated**

Background

The Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS) is expanding MassHealth Family Assistance coverage for nursing facility services.

This bulletin is effective July 10, 2020, and applies to all nursing facilities that are MassHealth providers for dates of service beginning March 11, 2020.

Changes to MassHealth Family Assistance Coverage

For dates of service beginning March 11, 2020, and notwithstanding 130 CMR 450.105(G)(3): *Covered Services for Members who are not Receiving Premium Assistance*, the MassHealth Family Assistance benefit will include coverage of nursing facility services up to a maximum of 100 days per admission to a nursing facility for MassHealth Family Assistance members.

Under this coverage, if after admission to a nursing facility, a MassHealth Family Assistance member is discharged or transferred to any other setting and does not return to a nursing facility for more than 30 days, EOHHS will consider a subsequent admission by the member to a nursing facility to be a separate admission, and the 100 days of nursing facility coverage will begin from the first date of the subsequent admission. However, if after admission to a nursing facility, a MassHealth Family Assistance member is discharged or transferred to any other setting, but returns to a nursing facility within 30 days, EOHHS will consider the return to a nursing facility to be a continuation of the initial nursing facility admission, and the 100 days of nursing facility coverage will begin from the date of initial admission to the nursing facility.

MassHealth members with Family Assistance coverage must receive the necessary level of care and pre-admission screenings applicable to all nursing facility admissions, including but not limited to, 130 CMR 456.409: *Services Requirement for Medical Eligibility*, and 130 CMR 456.410: *Screening for Mental Illness and Mental Retardation*.

Nursing facilities must meet all other federal and state statutory and regulatory requirements, including but not limited to requirements for admission, provision of services, residents' rights, and discharge notice and planning requirements, with respect to members admitted with MassHealth Family Assistance coverage.

Frequently asked questions about the MassHealth Family Assistance benefit in nursing facilities and CDRHs can be found online at www.mass.gov/media/2234731/download

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MassHealth Website

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Questions

If you have any questions about the information in this bulletin, please contact MassHealth as applicable for your provider type.

Long-Term Services and Supports

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Email: support@masshealthltss.com

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Mail: MassHealth LTSS, PO Box 159108, Boston, MA 02215

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All Other Provider Types

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