




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

MassHealth
Nursing Facility Bulletin 171
November 2021

TO: Nursing Facilities Participating in MassHealth
FROM: Amanda Cassel Kraft, Assistant Secretary for MassHealth 
RE: **Weekend Nursing Facilities Admission Rate Add-on**

Background

In response to capacity constraints at Massachusetts inpatient acute hospitals, chronic disease and rehabilitation hospitals, and psychiatric hospitals (hereinafter “hospitals”), and in acknowledgement of the higher costs associated with admitting individuals to nursing facilities outside of regular business hours, MassHealth will implement a rate add-on for nursing facilities that admit new residents from hospitals on weekends, effective for dates of services beginning December 1, 2021.

This bulletin applies to MassHealth fee-for-service (FFS) members as well as members enrolled in the Primary Care Clinician (PCC) Plan, or a Primary Care Accountable Care Organization (PCACO) who are admitted to a nursing facility participating in the MassHealth program.

Weekend Admission Rate Add-on

Effective for dates of service on or after December 1, 2021, nursing facilities that admit MassHealth members from hospitals between 12:00 a.m. on Saturday and 11:59 p.m. on Sunday may receive a member-specific add-on for those days. A nursing facility that admits a member on a Saturday may receive the add-on for that Saturday and, if the member remains in the facility into the next day, will also receive the add-on for Sunday. A nursing facility that admits a member on a Sunday may receive the add-on for that Sunday only. Beginning the first Monday after admission, the facility will receive the standard rates applicable to the member, without the weekend admission add-on.

For a nursing facility to be eligible for this member-specific add-on, the nursing facility must admit the member from an inpatient hospital in Massachusetts. Additionally, MassHealth must be the member’s primary payer for nursing facility services at the time of admission, and the member must not be returning to the nursing facility from a medical leave of absence.

MassHealth expects to codify this rate add-on, at a rate of \$200 per qualifying day, in amendments to 101 CMR 206.00: *Standard Payments to Nursing Facilities*. This weekend admission rate add-on will be paid in addition to any other rate add-on that a facility may qualify for with respect to the member under 101 CMR 206.00: *Standard Payments to Nursing Facilities*.

MassHealth also expects to issue additional billing guidance for nursing facilities to claim this add-on.

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Questions

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