



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

MassHealth
Nursing Facility Bulletin 174
January 2022

TO: Nursing Facilities Participating in MassHealth

FROM: Amanda Cassel Kraft, Assistant Secretary for MassHealth

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 and establishing a path to long-term care coverage under MassHealth Standard. This bulletin simplifies and further expands Family Assistance coverage for nursing facility services, which had previously been expanded under MassHealth [Nursing Facility Bulletin 149](#).

Effective for dates of service beginning November 1, 2021, this bulletin supersedes MassHealth Nursing Facility Bulletin 149 and applies to all nursing facilities that are MassHealth providers.

Changes to MassHealth Coverage for those Eligible for Family Assistance

For dates of service beginning November 1, 2021, and notwithstanding 130 CMR 450.105(G): *MassHealth Family Assistance*, members covered by Family Assistance who require a nursing facility stay will now have a pathway to become eligible for both an expanded short-term stay (up to six months), or long-term care (LTC) coverage.

Approvals for Short- Term Stays

Through this bulletin, members eligible for MassHealth Family Assistance coverage who meet clinical eligibility criteria are now eligible for up to six months of coverage for short-term stays at a nursing facility. This is an expansion of the previous family assistance coverage of up to 100 days per admission to a nursing facility under MassHealth Nursing Facility Bulletin 149.

If a member eligible for Family Assistance is admitted to a nursing facility, the facility or the member's health plan, as appropriate, will need to submit an SC-1 form indicating that the member requires a short-term stay of six months or less. Upon review and approval of the clinical assessment and SC-1 form, the member is covered for the short-term stay under MassHealth Family Assistance, for up to a six-month stay.

Approvals for Long-Term Care

Through this bulletin, members eligible for MassHealth Family Assistance coverage have a path to obtaining LTC coverage under MassHealth Standard. To begin the LTC eligibility application process, a nursing facility must submit an SC-1 form indicating that the length of stay will be more than six months. This form should be submitted when the six-month stay has been exhausted or

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when it is determined that the member is expected to be in the nursing facility for more than six months, whichever occurs first.

Upon receipt of the SC-1 form, MassHealth will determine both financial and clinical eligibility for LTC for the member based on the current conversion guidelines under MassHealth Standard. This includes the asset test and lookback guidelines for all LTC applicants. To be determined eligible, members younger than 65 will also need to be determined disabled. If financially and clinically eligible as determined by MassHealth, the member will become covered for LTC under MassHealth Standard.

Compliance with Existing Nursing Facility Requirements

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, those required under 130 CMR 456.409 and 130 CMR 456.410.

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.

MassHealth Website

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Questions

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

Long-Term Services and Supports

Phone: (844) 368-5184 (toll-free)

Email: support@masshealthltss.com

Portal: [MassHealthLTSS.com](https://www.masshealthltss.com)

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

Fax: (888) 832-3006

All Other Provider Types

Phone: (800) 841-2900; TTY: (800) 497-4648

Email: providersupport@mahealth.net

Fax: (617) 988-8974