



# PHARMACY FACTS

*Current information for pharmacists about  
the MassHealth Pharmacy Program*

[www.mass.gov/masshealth-pharmacy-facts](http://www.mass.gov/masshealth-pharmacy-facts)

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## **End of Public Health Emergency**

The federal public health emergency (PHE) ended at the end of the day on May 11, 2023.

In [All Provider Bulletin 367](#), MassHealth provided updated information on COVID-19 testing, vaccine, and treatment services, as well as delivery of prescription medications, after the end of the federal PHE. This applies to members enrolled in MassHealth fee-for-service, the Primary Care Clinician Plan, and Primary Care Accountable Care Organizations, as well as Health Safety Net (HSN) patients and MassHealth Limited members, as specifically noted below.

## **Coverage for COVID-19 Vaccine Services for MassHealth Members**

MassHealth will continue covering COVID-19 vaccine services for MassHealth members, at no cost to members, after the expiration of the federal PHE. COVID-19 vaccines are currently provided free of charge to providers out of the federal government stockpile. If COVID-19 vaccines are no longer provided free of charge to providers, MassHealth will price the vaccines and pay providers accordingly. In pharmacy, MassHealth anticipates that COVID-19 vaccines will be paid similarly to other vaccines.

## **Coverage for COVID-19 Testing Services for MassHealth Members**

MassHealth will continue covering COVID-19 testing services for MassHealth members, at no cost to the member, after the expiration of the

federal PHE. PCR and antigen testing remains available for MassHealth members. In addition, coverage will continue for over-the-counter (OTC) COVID-19 tests at MassHealth pharmacies. MassHealth currently covers eight OTC COVID-19 tests per member per month without prior authorization. MassHealth anticipates that beginning in July of 2023, it will cover two OTC COVID-19 tests per member per month without prior authorization. This will apply regardless of how the tests are packaged (e.g., MassHealth will cover one package containing two tests, or two packages containing one test, without prior authorization). If additional tests are medically necessary, prior authorization may be required. MassHealth will update the MassHealth Drug List when the number of OTC COVID-19 tests covered without prior authorization changes.

## **Coverage for COVID-19 Treatment Services for MassHealth Members**

MassHealth will continue covering COVID-19 treatment for MassHealth members after the expiration of the federal PHE. There will be no copays for such treatment services through at least September 30, 2024.

Paxlovid and molnupiravir are currently provided free of charge to providers out of the federal stockpile, as are certain monoclonal antibodies. If COVID-19 antivirals and monoclonal antibodies are no longer provided free of charge to providers, MassHealth will price them and pay providers accordingly. For prescription drugs dispensed through pharmacies, payment will be consistent with [101 CMR 331.04](#).

## **Delivery of Prescription Medications to MassHealth Members**

As described in [Pharmacy Facts 167](#) and in [101 CMR 446.03\(05\)](#), eligible pharmacy providers receive a payment adjustment to the professional dispensing fee when medications are delivered to a personal residence (including homeless shelters). The payment adjustment is the lower of the provider's usual and customary charge for prescription delivery or \$8.00 and will be made only when the MassHealth agency is the primary payer. This payment adjustment will continue after the end of the federal PHE.

MassHealth will pay the delivery fee to a provider only once per member per day regardless of the number of prescriptions being delivered. The fee is payable only for deliveries to members living in personal residences and is not payable for claims for members living in any type of institution or residential facility, except for homeless shelters.

## **Billing for COVID-19 Vaccines, Treatment, and Testing Services for MassHealth Limited and HSN**

Through at least September 30, 2024, COVID-19 vaccine services are a covered service under MassHealth Limited.

During the federal PHE and afterward, treatments for COVID-19, including prescription drugs such

as paxlovid and molnupiravir, are considered emergency services as defined in [130 CMR 450.105\(F\)](#) for purposes of MassHealth Limited, and are payable by MassHealth to any participating provider qualified to provide such services.

During the federal PHE, COVID-19 testing was considered an emergency service as defined in [130 CMR 450.105\(F\)](#) for purposes of MassHealth Limited, and was payable by MassHealth to any participating provider qualified to provide such services. Effective starting May 12, 2023, COVID-19 testing will be covered for MassHealth Limited to the extent performed in an emergency department. No other testing for COVID-19 should be billed to MassHealth Limited after the end of the federal PHE.

HSN providers rendering COVID-19 vaccines, treatment, and testing services to HSN patients (including for COVID-19 testing for MassHealth Limited members after the expiration of the federal PHE performed outside of an emergency department) should submit claims for such services to the HSN. This includes two OTC tests for COVID-19 per patient per month (eight tests until July 31, 2023). Standard HSN rules and regulations apply.