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Pharmacy Facts

MassHealth Pharmacy Program

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Pharmacy Copayment Changes

Effective October 1, 2011, MassHealth is revising the copayment amount for some pharmacy services. The resulting pharmacy copayments will be

- \$1 for each prescription and refill for each generic and over-the-counter drug covered by MassHealth in the following drug classes: antihyperglycemics, antihypertensives, and antihyperlipidemics. This is the same as the current copayments for these drugs; and
- \$3.65 for each prescription and refill for all other generic and over-the-counter drugs, and all brand-name drugs covered by MassHealth.

In addition, starting in 2012, the calendar-year maximum on copayments for pharmacy services will be \$250. There is no change to the 2011 calendar-year maximum, which remains at \$200. MassHealth will update its copayment regulations accordingly.

MassHealth members are receiving a notice this month notifying them of these changes. The member notice lists which members and services are exempt from the pharmacy copayments. There is a link to this letter on the MassHealth Web site under "News and Updates."

MassHealth is also updating its regulations to clarify when members or services may be exempt from copayments. All other copayment policies remain the same. See 130 CMR 450.130 for the full policy for copayments.

Flu Vaccine Update

Effective August 29, 2011, MassHealth will pay pharmacies for the administration of flu vaccines to MassHealth-eligible members. All MassHealth members are eligible to receive flu vaccines regardless of coverage type (except where MassHealth pays only for premium assistance for members with other health insurance). Coverage of flu vaccines for MassHealth members enrolled in MassHealth managed care organizations (MCOs), including senior care organizations (SCOs) and Programs of All-inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE), will be through the MCOs. Providers should use the MassHealth Eligibility Verification System (EVS) to check member eligibility and managed care enrollment.

Vaccinations must be administered by properly trained and certified pharmacists and other health care professionals in accordance with Massachusetts Department of Public Health regulations at 105 CMR 700.000. Pharmacies may not charge MassHealth members a copayment for the vaccine administration or flu vaccine serum.

MassHealth will pay pharmacies for flu vaccine serum without prior authorization if the vaccine is not available free of cost.

Pharmacies must provide information to the member's primary care clinician for the administration of flu vaccine. This information must include

- the member's name and date of birth;
- the vaccine name, quantity, and lot number;
- the injection site of administration; and
- the date of administration.

Pharmacies can obtain the PCC contact information from the MassHealth member or from EVS.

Pharmacies may bill only for vaccine administration through the Pharmacy Online Processing System (POPS) using the following instructions.

- Include the NDC of the vaccine serum.
- Enter a zero amount in the dispensing fee field. (MassHealth will pay an administration fee to pharmacies instead of a dispensing fee.)
- Enter "MA" in the field named "Professional Service" (440-E5).
- Enter the appropriate administration fee in the field named "Incentive Amount Submitted" (438-E8). See the chart below.
- Include the cost of the vaccine serum, plus the administration fee, as the gross amount due.

Payment Amounts for Vaccine Administration	
Vaccine Service Description	Admin. Fee *
Flu vaccine, administered by injection	\$14.57
Flu vaccine, administered by intranasal route	\$9.63

* These fees are the current rates paid to a mid-level clinician in the DHCFP Medicine regulation and may change when these regulations are updated.