




**MassHealth**  
**Physician Bulletin 103**  
**July 2021**

**TO:** Physicians Participating in MassHealth

**FROM:** Amanda Cassel Kraft, Acting Assistant Secretary for MassHealth 

**RE: Integrated Behavioral Health Service Code, Description, and Billing Requirements**

## Background

Through its [Roadmap for Behavioral Health Reform](#) (Roadmap), the Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS) is implementing initiatives to expand access to behavioral health treatment, promote more effective treatment, and advance health equity. As part of the Roadmap, MassHealth will increase support for behavioral health integration in primary care through a phased approach.

In the first phase, MassHealth is expanding coverage for integrated primary care services by covering specific CPT codes that reflect a range of integrated care models. This first phase is designed to facilitate multi-payer alignment and build primary care practices' capacity in anticipation of a future phase in which MassHealth intends to transition payment for primary care practices that participate in MassHealth Accountable Care Organizations to a new, more flexible payment model with specific requirements for behavioral health integration. This new model is anticipated to be implemented in 2023 through MassHealth's upcoming 1115 demonstration extension.

MassHealth has already begun implementing this first phase within the MassHealth Physician Program by covering Medicare psychiatric collaborative case management (CCM) CPT codes 99492, 99493, and 99494. The service descriptions and payment rates for these codes can be found at 101 CMR 317.00: *Medicine*.

The remainder of this bulletin describes the implementation of the balance of this first phase within the MassHealth Physician Program.<sup>1</sup> Specifically, through this bulletin, MassHealth will pay physicians for rendering integrated behavioral health services using CPT code 99484 (Integrated Behavioral Health Service), effective for dates of service on or after July 1, 2021. MassHealth will issue a transmittal letter to formally add this code to the MassHealth *Physician Manual*. The payment rate for this code can be found at 101 CMR 317.00: *Medicine*.

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<sup>1</sup> MassHealth will publish additional program-specific guidance to implement the first phase within other MassHealth programs.

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Providers rendering the services described in this bulletin must do so in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations, including 130 CMR 433.000: *Physician Services*.

This bulletin applies to physicians rendering services to members enrolled in MassHealth fee-for-service, the Primary Care Clinician (PCC) Plan, or a Primary Care Accountable Care Organization (ACO). MassHealth Managed Care Entities (MCEs) will also be paying for the integrated behavioral health services described in this bulletin. Physicians serving members enrolled in a MassHealth Managed Care Entity should direct questions about billing and payment requirements to the relevant MCE.

### **Integrated Behavioral Health Service Description and Billing Requirements**

CPT code 99484 describes the following Integrated Behavioral Health Service.

Care management services for behavioral health conditions, at least 20 minutes of clinical staff time, directed by a physician or other qualified health care professional, per calendar month, with the following required elements: initial assessment of follow-up monitoring, including the use of applicable validated ratings scales; behavioral health care planning in relation to behavioral/psychiatric health problems, including revision for patients who are not progressing or whose status changes; facilitating and coordinating treatment such as psychotherapy, pharmacotherapy, counseling and/or psychiatric consultation; and continuity of care with a designated member of the care team.

Notwithstanding 130 CMR 433.428(B)(1): *Nonphysician and Non-PCNS Services*, and in addition to any other licensure and supervision requirements imposed by law or regulation, MassHealth will reimburse a physician for the provision of the Integrated Behavioral Health Service described by CPT code 99484 to a member when that service is rendered by a non-physician mental health professional employed or supervised by the physician, such as a social worker. Before a member receives the Integrated Behavioral Health Service described by CPT code 99484, the member's primary care provider (PCP) must determine, through an evaluation and monitoring visit, that the service is medically necessary and clinically appropriate. The member's PCP must also document this determination in the member's medical record.

Once the PCP determines that the Integrated Behavioral Health Service described by CPT code 99484 is medically necessary and clinically appropriate for the member, MassHealth will cover one year's worth of Integrated Behavioral Health Services for the member. The member's physician may bill CPT code 99484 only once per member per calendar month during this one-year period. At the expiration of this one year period, the member's PCP may reinitiate another year of the Integrated Behavioral Health Services if the PCP determines, following an evaluation and monitoring visit, that the continuation of the service is medically necessary and clinically appropriate.

A physician may bill CPT code 99484 only when rendering that Integrated Behavioral Health Service in a primary care setting.

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**Questions**

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