



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Health and Human Services
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Secretary

To: Family Physicians, Gynecologists, Health Insurance Carriers, Mental Health Clinicians, Certified Nurse Midwives, Nurse Practitioners, Obstetricians, Primary Care Providers, Physician Assistants, and other health care providers treating new mothers in Massachusetts

From: Ron Benham, Director, Bureau of Family Health & Nutrition, Massachusetts Department of Public Health

Daniel Tsai, Assistant Secretary for MassHealth, Office of Medicaid

Date: December 16, 2015

Re: Guidance on Provider Postpartum Depression Screening & Reporting

Department of Public Health regulation 105 CMR 271.000 – Postpartum Depression Screening and Reporting requires annual reporting by certain providers that conduct or oversee screening for postpartum depression (PPD), using a validated screening tool, during a routine clinical appointment in which medical services are provided to a woman who has given birth within the previous six months. The reporting regulation also applies to a carrier that receives a claim for this PPD screening.

Pursuant to 105 CMR 271.000, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health offers the following clarification regarding PPD screening data indirectly reported to MassHealth.

Notwithstanding the definition of the term “Carrier” as defined by 105 CMR 271.003, for PPD screens of MassHealth members, the Department will consider a Provider to be in compliance with the indirect reporting provision of 105 CMR 271.004(C)(2) if the Provider submits reportable claims to MassHealth on an ongoing basis. The reportable claims for postpartum depression screening of patients should be reported to MassHealth using the HCPCS code of S3005 (Performance Measurement, Evaluation of Patient Self-Assessment, Depression) with diagnostic range Z39.2 (Routine Postpartum Follow-Up, formerly ICD9 code V24 – Screening for Postpartum Depression) and with a modifier of U1 for a positive screen or U2 for a negative screen.

If you have any questions or inquiries, please feel free to contact Beth Buxton, LCSW, by email at ppd.regulations@state.ma.us or by phone at 617-624-5910. Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.

