




MassHealth
Rehabilitation Center Bulletin 15
November 2021

TO: Therapy Providers at Rehabilitation Centers Participating in MassHealth

FROM: Amanda Cassel Kraft, Assistant Secretary for MassHealth 

RE: **Payment for Services Provided by a Licensed Therapy Assistant Supervised by a Licensed Therapist**

Introduction

The purpose of this bulletin is to update rehabilitation center program rules consistent with other long-term services and supports (LTSS) programs to allow payment by the MassHealth agency for therapy services provided by licensed therapy assistants while under the supervision of a licensed therapist working in rehabilitation centers.

Therapists and any therapy assistants they supervise providing services within rehabilitation centers are subject to all other regulations established in 130 CMR 430.000: *Rehabilitation Center Services* and in 130 CMR 450.000: *Administrative and Billing Regulations*.

Payable Services Provided by Therapy Assistants

Effective for dates of service on or after November 26, 2021, MassHealth will pay for reimbursable therapy services provided by physical therapy assistants (PTAs), occupational therapy assistants (OTAs), and speech-language pathology assistants (SLPAs), subject to supervision requirements described in this bulletin.

MassHealth will not separately enroll licensed therapy assistants. Claims for services rendered by supervised assistants must be billed under the rehabilitation center provider's MassHealth Identification Service Location Number. Licensed therapy assistants must complete visit note documentation, which must be signed by the therapy assistant and co-signed by the supervising therapist. Such notes must be maintained in the member's record. See 130 CMR 450.205: *Recordkeeping and Disclosure*.

Provider Eligibility and Supervision Requirements

Payment for rehabilitation center services described in 130 CMR 430.000 will be made only to the rehabilitation centers that are participating in MassHealth on the date of the service, for services personally rendered by therapists, or for services rendered by supervised licensed therapy assistants. In addition to the other requirements established in 130 CMR 430.000, below are the provider definitions and the supervision requirements for licensed therapy assistants.

New definitions for rehabilitation centers:

- (1) **Physical Therapist.** A physical therapist must be currently licensed by and in good standing with the Massachusetts Division of Professional Licensure, Board of Allied Health Professionals as a physical therapist.

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- (2) Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA). A PTA must be currently licensed by and in good standing with the Massachusetts Division of Professional Licensure, Board of Allied Health Professionals as a PTA. PTAs must work under the supervision of a licensed physical therapist. Supervision of PTAs must be performed following state regulatory guidance. For physical therapy, see 259 CMR 5.00: *Physical Therapist*.
- (3) Occupational Therapist. An occupational therapist must be currently licensed by and in good standing with the Massachusetts Division of Professional Licensure, Board of Allied Health Professionals as an occupational therapist.
- (4) Occupational Therapy Assistant (“OTA”). An OTA must be currently licensed by and in good standing with the Massachusetts Division of Professional Licensure, Board of Allied Health Professionals as an OTA. OTAs must work under the supervision of a licensed occupational therapist. Supervision of OTAs must be performed following state regulatory guidance. For occupational therapy, see 259 CMR 3.00: *Occupational Therapists*.
- (5) Speech/Language Therapist (Speech/Language Pathologist). A speech/language pathologist must be currently licensed by and in good standing with the Massachusetts Board of Registration in Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology as a speech/language therapist or speech/language pathologist.
- (6) Speech/Language Therapist Assistant (Speech/Language Pathologist Assistant (SLPA)). An SLPA must be currently licensed by and in good standing with the Massachusetts Board of Registration in Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology as an SLPA. An SLPA must work under the supervision of a licensed speech/language pathologist. Supervision of SLPAs must be performed following state regulatory guidance. For speech/language pathologist, see 260 CMR 10.00: *Use and Supervision of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology Assistant*.

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Questions

If you have questions about the information in this bulletin, please contact the Long-Term Services and Supports (LTSS) Provider Service Center.

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