



Office of the Inspector General

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Glenn A. Cunha
Inspector General

Report Pursuant to Section 182
of Chapter 139 of the Acts of
2012: Assessing MassHealth's
Identification and Recovery of
Noncustodial Parents' Health
Insurance

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Massachusetts Office of the Inspector General

Address:

Room 1311
John McCormack State Office Building
One Ashburton Place
Boston, MA 02108

Phone:

(617) 727-9140
(617) 523-1205 (MCPPO Program)
(800) 322-1323 (confidential 24-hour
hotline)

Internet and Fax:

www.mass.gov/ig
(617) 723-2334 (fax)

Printed on recycled paper.

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Executive Summary

At the direction of the Legislature the past two years, the Office of the Inspector General (“Office”) has studied the administration of the Massachusetts Medicaid program (“Medicaid”) by MassHealth, the state entity that runs the program. This year, pursuant to Section 182 of Chapter 139 of the Acts of 2012, the Office examined: (1) how MassHealth gathers and verifies information from custodial parents regarding the availability of commercial health insurance from noncustodial parents; and (2) to what extent MassHealth uses that information to obtain such health insurance coverage for a Medicaid member (referred to as a third party liability or “TPL”). These issues are important to the financial well-being of Medicaid because the program is designed and funded as the payor of last resort, which means that Medicaid is supposed to pay only when another payor is unavailable. And under federal regulations, MassHealth is required to take reasonable measures to identify TPL payors for Medicaid health care services, including commercial health insurance from noncustodial parents of Medicaid members.

The Office studied two scenarios in which MassHealth could access a noncustodial parent’s health insurance. First, MassHealth could discover that a noncustodial parent was already providing health insurance to a Medicaid beneficiary and could then require this insurance to pay the beneficiary’s health care claims. In this scenario, MassHealth’s maximum responsibility would be to provide “secondary coverage” to the beneficiary to pay for deductibles, copays and services not covered by the noncustodial parent’s insurance. The Office determined that MassHealth does have policies and procedures in place for when a Medicaid member is already covered by a noncustodial parent’s existing health insurance.

Second, in the scenario in which MassHealth learns that the member is not covered by a noncustodial parent’s policy, MassHealth could, but currently does not, attempt to obtain or enforce a health insurance support order by referring cases to the Department of Revenue’s Child Support Enforcement Division (“DOR/CSE”), the Commonwealth’s child support enforcement unit. MassHealth’s practice is inconsistent with federal and state regulations. Moreover, MassHealth does not require Medicaid applicants to provide basic noncustodial parent information, such as address, date of birth, Social Security number, and employer. This also violates federal Medicaid regulations, and it prevents MassHealth from gathering information

that would enhance its ability to obtain or enforce a health insurance support order from a court, should MassHealth decide to pursue such orders in the future. The Office searched the Medicaid eligibility database and discovered that, at least prior to May 2011, Medicaid applicants did not provide much of the noncustodial parent information requested by MassHealth.¹ In short, when a Medicaid member is not already covered by a noncustodial parent's health insurance policy, MassHealth does not collect enough information, does not share with DOR/CSE the information it does collect, and does not actively attempt to obtain or enforce health insurance support orders.

MassHealth has, however, made some changes designed to gather more noncustodial parent information. MassHealth is also currently working with DOR/CSE to adopt a set of rules for determining when it is cost-effective for MassHealth to pursue health insurance support orders by referring cases to DOR/CSE. The Office applauds those efforts, but notes that MassHealth has delayed adopting such rules the past few years. MassHealth can help all Medicaid members by following the federal and state rules that are designed to facilitate MassHealth's identifications and recovery of noncustodial parents' health insurance. In order to obtain the information needed to identify available health insurance, MassHealth should simplify the language on its application and expand the questions it asks about noncustodial parents and their health insurance. Unless good cause exists not to provide information, MassHealth should also require applicants to answer all of the questions on the application, including supplements, related to noncustodial parents and their health insurance. The Office will follow up and report to the Legislature on MassHealth's progress in addressing the issues raised in this analysis.

¹ The Office's findings do not include applicants who claimed good cause for not providing the information.

Introduction

In Chapter 240 of the Acts of 2004, the Legislature authorized the Office of the Inspector General (“Office”) to form an Uncompensated Care Pool Audit Unit to oversee and examine the practices surrounding the health care services provided to the uninsured in hospitals throughout the Commonwealth. The Legislature funded these health care services through what was then known as the Uncompensated Care Trust Fund, now the Health Safety Net Trust Fund (“HSN Trust Fund”). The Office issued its first report pursuant to Chapter 240 in June 2005. That was the first in a long series of reports the Office has issued regarding various aspects of the services funded through the HSN Trust Fund.

In July 2012, the Legislature enacted Chapter 139 of the Acts of 2012, part of which directed the Office to study and review the Massachusetts Medicaid program using funding from the HSN.¹ Section 182 of Chapter 139 states:

SECTION 182. The inspector general shall expend funds from the Health Safety Net Trust Fund, established in section 36 of chapter 118G of the General Laws, to conduct a study and review of the Massachusetts Medicaid program. The study shall include, but not be limited to, a review of the program’s eligibility requirements, utilization, claims administration and compliance with federal mandates. The inspector general shall report any preliminary findings to the secretary of health and human services and the house and senate committees on ways and means on or before October 30, 2012, and issue a final report on or before March 1, 2013.

Pursuant to this mandate, the Office reviewed the application process for medical benefits, and in particular, catalogued the information that MassHealth² gathers from custodial parents regarding the availability of health insurance from noncustodial parents. The Office further reviewed what steps MassHealth takes to verify this information, as well as whether MassHealth determines if noncustodial parents are responsible for providing health insurance to dependent children and/or

¹ The Legislature enacted a similar provision the previous year (*see* Section 156 of Chapter 68 of the Acts of 2011), and the Office issued the following: “Report Pursuant to Section 156 of Chapter 68 of the Acts of 2011: Rates of Reimbursement to Providers in the MassHealth MCO Program.” <http://www.mass.gov/ig/publications/reports-and-recommendations/2012/rates-of-reimbursement-masshealth-mco-providers-july-2012.pdf>

² MassHealth is the state agency that administers Massachusetts’ Medicaid program. The “MassHealth” agency is also called the “Massachusetts Office of Medicaid.” In addition, “MassHealth” is another name for the Massachusetts Medicaid program. To avoid confusion, whenever practicable throughout this report the Medicaid program will be referred to as “Medicaid” and the state agency administering the program will be referred to as “MassHealth.”

custodial parents through a court order (a “health insurance order”). To perform this study, the Office used an eligibility database that it obtained from MassHealth in May 2011, to ascertain what information applicants provide to MassHealth regarding noncustodial parents and health insurance orders, and what MassHealth does with that information as part of its eligibility review process.

As part of its review, the Office also met with, and conducted several follow-up interviews with, staff from MassHealth and the Massachusetts Department of Revenue (“DOR”). DOR’s Child Support Enforcement Division (“DOR/CSE”) is the government unit responsible for administering and supervising the Commonwealth’s child support enforcement efforts. The Office also interviewed third party liability (“TPL”) specialists from Commonwealth Medicine of the University of Massachusetts Medical School, the TPL vendor for MassHealth. The Office conducted additional informational interviews and performed a database review of 158,066 Medicaid recipients. This report contains the Office’s findings and recommendations.

Background

I. The Office of the Inspector General

Created in 1981, the Office was the first state inspector general's office in the country. The Office's mission is to prevent and detect fraud, waste and abuse in the expenditure of public funds. The Office investigates allegations of fraud, waste and abuse at all levels of government; conducts programmatic reviews to identify systemic vulnerabilities and opportunities for improvement; and provides assistance to the public and private sectors to help prevent fraud, waste and abuse in government spending. The Office also offers a wide range of training programs designed to promote excellence in public procurement and to enhance public purchasing officials' ability to operate effectively.

The Office has considerable experience reviewing health care programs that have eligibility, documentation and verification components and has issued a number of analyses, reports and recommendations regarding Medicaid oversight, the Health Safety Net, health care reform and other health care topics. The Office also has expertise in developing fraud-control best practices for state agencies and municipalities.

II. The Medicaid Program

The Medicaid program was created in 1965 for the purpose of providing medical assistance to low-income Americans, particularly children, through a shared state-federal commitment. Today, Medicaid is an entitlement program that finances medical care, as well as long-term care, for tens of millions of Americans. Each state administers its own version of Medicaid under federal and state laws and regulations.

A. Federal Regulation

MassHealth must administer Medicaid consistent with a number of basic federal guidelines that beneficiaries must meet and mandates with which the state must comply. For example, under federal law, with limited exceptions, only United States citizens, either natural or naturalized, are

eligible for Medicaid.³ Beneficiaries must meet various eligibility criteria, including income limits.

1. Payor of last resort

The federal government has determined that Medicaid must be the payor of last resort. This means that Medicaid must ensure that it is paying only for health care for individuals who have no other source of reimbursement for their health care, or that Medicaid pays last when other insurance is present.

With regard to parents and their children’s health care, courts in divorce and paternity cases will often enter an order, referred to as a health insurance order, requiring one parent to provide health insurance for the children. For cases in which there is a health insurance order, MassHealth has an obligation to obtain applicant information that would be useful in identifying a legally liable third party. 42 C.F.R. § 433.138(b).

2. Third party liability

To carry out the mandate that Medicaid is the payor of last resort, federal regulations require that MassHealth take “reasonable measures” to determine if there is any other entity that is legally liable to pay for health care services. 42 C.F.R. § 433.138(a). This legal liability is referred to as third party liability (“TPL”). Although there are a number of different sources of TPL, the Office focused on TPL provided by commercial insurance offering health or casualty insurance to individuals or groups.

To meet the “reasonable measures” standard under federal regulation, MassHealth must:

during the initial application and each redetermination process, obtain from the applicant or recipient such health insurance information as would be useful in identifying legally liable third party resources so that the agency may process claims under the third party liability payment procedures Health insurance information may include, but is not limited to, the name of the policy holder, his or her relationship to the applicant or recipient, the social security number (SSN) of the policy holder, and the name and address of insurance company and policy number.

³ The Office notes that nonqualified aliens and aliens with special status may qualify for MassHealth Limited. 130 C.M.R. § 505.001(a)(7).

42 C.F.R. § 433.138(b)(1). The applicable federal regulations also specifically require that MassHealth include in the eligibility case file the custodial or noncustodial parent's Social Security number to the extent such information is available. 42 C.F.R. § 433.138(c). The federal regulations further require MassHealth to use the Social Security number and information regarding the custodial or noncustodial parents' employers to determine the availability of TPL.⁴ 42 C.F.R. § 433.138(d)(1)(i-ii).

3. Assignment of rights and cooperation

Pursuant to federal regulations, an applicant for, or recipient of, Medicaid benefits must assign to MassHealth his own rights to any medical care support available under a court or administrative order, his own rights to any third party payments for medical care, and the rights of an individual for whom he can legally make such an assignment. 42 C.F.R. § 433.145. Consistent with this requirement, MassHealth must require an individual who assigns any rights to medical support or payments to cooperate in establishing paternity for a child born out of wedlock, as well as in obtaining medical support and payments for himself and any other person for whom the individual can legally assign rights. 42 C.F.R. § 433.147. Specifically, MassHealth may require the individual to appear at a MassHealth office to provide information or evidence relevant to the case; appear as a witness at a court or other proceeding; provide information, or attest to lack of information, under penalty of perjury; pay MassHealth any support or medical care funds received that are covered by the assignment of rights; and take any other reasonable steps to assist in establishing paternity and securing medical support and payments, and in identifying and providing information to assist MassHealth in pursuing any liable third party (such as health insurance from a noncustodial parent). 42 C.F.R. § 433.147(b).

4. Good cause for refusal to cooperate

MassHealth may waive the requirements regarding cooperation if it determines that there is good cause for an individual's refusal to cooperate. 42 C.F.R. § 433.147(c). To do so, MassHealth must find that cooperation is not in the best interest of a child, consistent with factors considered

⁴ MassHealth is also required to enter into agreements with other entities to identify additional potential sources of TPL, such as workers' compensation and motor vehicle accident coverage. 42 C.F.R. § 433.138(d)(4)(i-ii).

under the federal child support enforcement program.⁵ 42 C.F.R. § 433.147(c)(1). When MassHealth waives cooperation with establishing paternity, obtaining medical care support and payments for a child, or identifying and providing information to assist MassHealth in pursuing liable third parties, such as a noncustodial parent, it must also do so in a manner that is consistent with the federal child support enforcement program. 42 C.F.R. § 433.147(d).

B. MassHealth

1. Overview of types of MassHealth categories and coverage

MassHealth provides health care coverage for certain individuals who would not otherwise have such coverage. Although it is partially funded by the federal government, the Commonwealth is responsible for administering the program. As the administrator, MassHealth must ensure that the program meets both federal and state mandates. With permission from the federal government, the Commonwealth may create programs that broaden the safety net for health care services to include more residents who do not meet all the federal Medicaid standards. MassHealth currently administers seven different types of Medicaid programs and three additional non-Medicaid benefit programs. The MassHealth Medicaid programs are:

- (1) MassHealth Standard: for families, pregnant women, children, disabled individuals, and women with breast or cervical cancer;
- (2) Prenatal: for pregnant women;
- (3) MassHealth CommonHealth: for disabled adults and disabled children who are not eligible for MassHealth Standard;
- (4) MassHealth Family Assistance: for children, certain employed adults, and persons who are HIV positive who are not eligible for MassHealth Standard or CommonHealth⁶;
- (5) MassHealth Basic: for the long-term unemployed who have income at or below 100 percent of the federal poverty level, and who are receiving services or are on a waiting list to receive services from the Department of Mental Health (DMH), as identified by the DMH to MassHealth, or for individuals or members of a couple who

⁵ Similarly, for an individual who is applying only for himself, MassHealth may waive cooperation if it determines that cooperation would result in reprisal against, and cause physical or emotional harm to, the individual providing information or the person who would be receiving Medicaid benefits. 42 C.F.R. § 433.147(c)(2).

⁶ Some limited aspects of this program do not fall within Medicaid.

receive Emergency Aid to the Elderly, Disabled and Children (EAEDC) cash assistance;

(6) MassHealth Essential: for the long-term unemployed and for disabled long-term unemployed aliens with special status who have income at or below 100 percent of the federal poverty level and who are not eligible for MassHealth Basic; and

(7) Limited: for nonqualified aliens and aliens with special status.

130 C.M.R. § 505.001(A).⁷

The three additional benefit programs are: the Children’s Medical Security Plan (provides certain uninsured children and adolescents with primary and preventive medical and dental coverage), the Healthy Start Program (provides health insurance to low-income, uninsured pregnant women to improve access to early, comprehensive, and continuous prenatal care to improve the health of newborns and their mothers), and the Health Safety Net (provides care for uninsured and underinsured individuals who are otherwise not eligible for MassHealth programs). MassHealth also assists in the administration of the eligibility process for Commonwealth Care, a state program that offers affordable health insurance to uninsured Massachusetts adults who meet certain income and other requirements but do not qualify for Medicaid.

2. MassHealth eligibility process

MassHealth has promulgated a number of regulations that govern its eligibility process. The MassHealth regulations require that each “applicant or member must cooperate with the MassHealth agency in providing information necessary to establish and maintain eligibility, and must comply with all the rules and regulations of MassHealth, including recovery and obtaining or maintaining available health insurance.” 130 C.M.R. § 501.010.

An individual provides information to MassHealth by completing the Medical Benefit Request form (“MBR”). 130 C.M.R. § 502.00 et seq. The MassHealth regulations define a “complete” MBR as one “that is received by the MassHealth agency and includes all required information and verifications.” 130 C.M.R. § 501.001. When MassHealth receives an incomplete MBR, “the MassHealth agency is unable to determine the applicant’s eligibility for [Medicaid].”

⁷ Medicaid also offers coverage for certain Medicare beneficiaries.

130 C.M.R. § 502.001(E)(1). There is, however, a process in place for MassHealth to request additional information. 130 C.M.R. § 502.001(E)(2). If MassHealth still does not receive the requisite information and the MBR remains incomplete, MassHealth is required to notify the applicant that it is unable to determine eligibility for medical benefits. 130 C.M.R. § 502.001(E)(4).

With specific regard to noncustodial parent information, the MassHealth regulations state that:

(B) The applicant or member must fully cooperate with and provide [MassHealth] with information to help pursue any medical support and source of third-party payment, including the absent parent,⁸ who is legally obligated to pay for care and services for the applicant or member, or person on whose behalf benefits are requested, unless he or she can show good reason not to cooperate or provide this information.

(C) Refusing to comply with the[se] requirements . . . will exclude the applicant or member from receipt of [Medicaid] benefits unless the applicant or member demonstrates good cause, . . . or is a pregnant woman

130 C.M.R. § 503.004. As part of the eligibility determination process, MassHealth's regulations permit it to take data from the MBR and match it with information held by other agencies and information sources. These agencies and information sources may include, but are not limited to: the Division of Unemployment Assistance, the Department of Public Health's Bureau of Vital Statistics, the Department of Industrial Accidents, the Department of Veterans' Services, the Department of Revenue, the Bureau of Special Investigations, the Internal Revenue Service, the Social Security Administration, the Alien Verification Information System, the Department of Transitional Assistance, and health insurance carriers. 130 C.M.R. § 502.004.

In addition to its responsibility for obtaining complete information and matching that information with other sources, MassHealth is responsible for reviewing the accuracy of the information that it collects. In particular, MassHealth regulations refer to its Quality Control Division, which "periodically conducts an independent review of eligibility factors in a sampling of case files." 130 C.M.R. § 501.010(C). The regulations require that all members cooperate with the representative of MassHealth. This cooperation includes, but is not limited to, a personal

⁸ MassHealth refers to a noncustodial parent as an "absent parent."

interview and the furnishing of requested information. If the member does not cooperate, MassHealth may terminate the member's benefits. 130 C.M.R. § 501.010(C).

3. The Medical Benefit Request form ("MBR")

The MBR is the application for Medicaid, the Children's Medical Security Plan, Healthy Start and the Health Safety Net. *See* Appendix A, Medical Benefit Request form. Completing the application also allows MassHealth to determine whether the applicant could be eligible for health insurance premium assistance.

The application is for individuals who live in Massachusetts, who are not on the verge of entering a nursing home, and who are less than 65 years old. Parents and guardians of children under the age of 19 may also use the form to apply for services. Either the entire family group may apply for services, or parents may apply for their children only. Individuals with disabilities may also use the MBR to apply for services.

The MBR instructs applicants that they must answer "all questions" and complete the entire application and any applicable supplements correctly. Applicants must also provide proof of citizenship for any member of the family unit that is applying for Medicaid.

a. MBR questions regarding the noncustodial parent and Supplement B

Pages four and five of the MBR ask for information regarding health insurance that the applicant has or for which the applicant may be eligible. The instructions for this section states that health insurance "can be from . . . an absent parent." These pages ask for the policyholder's name, Social Security number if obtainable, employer name, policyholder contribution to premium costs, as well as the insurance company name, policy type, policy start date, policy number, covered services, and names of covered family members.

Page six of the MBR contains the following two questions:

Has any child in the household been adopted by a single parent or has [*sic*] a parent who is deceased or unknown?

Does any child in the family have a parent who does not live with you who is not included in the previous question?

If the applicant answers “yes” to either of these questions, the MBR directs the applicant to complete Supplement B. Supplement B instructs that the applicant “must cooperate with the Child Support Enforcement Division of the Massachusetts Department of Revenue (DOR) to establish paternity and enforce a medical-support order, unless you have Good Cause not to cooperate.”⁹ Supplement B describes cooperation as giving “information about the identity, location, and employment of the absent parent . . . [and taking] any other action necessary to help DOR in establishing paternity, and establishing, changing, or enforcing a child medical-support order.” Supplement B asks whether an applicant has “good cause” not to cooperate with efforts to obtain health insurance from the noncustodial parent, which includes the following situations: (1) cooperation would lead to serious physical or emotional harm to a family member or his child, the applicant, or member; (2) adoption of the child is in process; and (3) the child was the result of sexual abuse or assault. Unless an applicant asserts a good cause claim, the applicant’s “MassHealth eligibility could be affected” by the failure to cooperate. *See* Appendix B, MBR Supplement B.

With regard to the specific information about the noncustodial parent, Supplement B requires the applicant to provide the name, address, telephone number, Social Security number if obtainable and one has been issued, date of birth, driver’s license number, gender, and employer’s name and address. Supplement B also asks whether there is a “medical support” (*i.e.*, health insurance) order in place.

b. The MBR’s signature page

By signing the application, the applicant grants as follows:

I give permission for my current and former employers and health insurers to release to MassHealth . . . any and all information they have about my health-insurance coverage and health-insurance coverage for members of my family group. This includes, but is not limited to, information about policies, premiums, coinsurance, deductibles, and covered benefits that are, may be, or should have been available to me or members of my family group.

The applicant also grants MassHealth permission to pursue and collect third-party payments for medical care and medical support (such as health insurance) from the noncustodial parent of any child under age 19 who is applying for benefits. The applicant must assert, under the pains and

⁹ Supplement B refers to health insurance orders as “medical-support orders.”

penalties of perjury, that the information on the MBR, as well as on Supplement B, is “correct and complete” to the best of the applicant’s knowledge.

III. The Office’s Review of Information Provided on the MBR

In light of the provisions of Section 182 requiring a review of MassHealth’s eligibility process and compliance with federal law, the Office conducted a program integrity review to determine how applicants were completing the MBR and to understand how MassHealth uses that information to determine eligibility for Medicaid. This review focused in particular on information provided regarding noncustodial parents and health insurance orders.

A. Overview of the Database

In May 2011, the Office received what is essentially a “snapshot” of the MA21 computer database (“MA21”), which is the database that MassHealth uses to determine an applicant’s eligibility for Medicaid, as well as to maintain applicants’ and members’ eligibility information.¹⁰ Among other information, MA21 includes eligibility information for every member on every Medicaid program. The snapshot of the database was designed to allow the Office to review applicant information at a fixed point in time. The Office also requested information obtained through the Eligibility Review Form, which MassHealth uses to confirm continued Medicaid eligibility annually.

The Office notes that the MA21 database has a potential weakness. When MassHealth enters revised eligibility information on MA21, MassHealth overwrites the previous information, which is then no longer available on MA21. Thus, historical eligibility information is not maintained. As a result, changes cannot be tracked and the information contained in the MA21 database may not be the same information as the applicant initially provided on the MBR.

B. Noncustodial Parent Information

For the purpose of the current review, the Office focused on the noncustodial parent information that Medicaid members had listed on their MBR forms. The MBR responses show that, as of

¹⁰ In order to comply with the Affordable Care Act, MassHealth plans to transition by 2014 to a new system for determining Medicaid eligibility. The system, called the Health Insurance Exchange/Integrated Eligibility System (“HIX/IES”), is designed to eventually fully integrate eligibility determinations for a variety of state health and human services programs. The issues and recommendations set forth in this report are equally relevant to the current MA21 system and to the new HIX/IES system.

May 2011, there were 158,066 Medicaid members (*i.e.*, dependent children and custodial parents) associated with a noncustodial parent. These Medicaid members did not claim good cause, and for 10,295 of those members the custodial parent reported that a health insurance order was already in place. Presumably, the potential for obtaining health insurance coverage from a noncustodial parent is higher on average for these 10,295 members than for the remaining 147,771 dependent children and custodial parent Medicaid members for whom there was no good cause claim and no indication that a health insurance order was in place.

The Office notes that obtaining health insurance coverage from a noncustodial parent for a Medicaid member (referred to as a “TPL recovery” or “pursuit of TPL”) is not always possible even when there is a health insurance order because: (1) some health insurance orders are conditional, and a change in the circumstances of the noncustodial parent may mitigate the obligation to provide health insurance; and (2) even when there is an unconditional health insurance order, a noncustodial parent may not be easy to locate or may not have the resources necessary to provide health insurance.

Findings

The Office found the following regarding MassHealth's current efforts with TPL and noncustodial parents:

I. MassHealth receives information each month from DOR/CSE regarding noncustodial parents.

MassHealth and DOR have, for more than ten years, implemented many policies and procedures to ensure that the Commonwealth realizes a cost savings when a dependent child on MassHealth is enrolled in a noncustodial parent's health insurance. In particular, each month DOR/CSE, pursuant to federal law and the existing interagency service agreement ("ISA") between DOR/CSE and the Executive Office of Health and Human Services, sends an electronic file that includes its entire caseload (with limited exceptions) to MassHealth's TPL vendor. The file includes specific identifying demographic data, household information, noncustodial parent court order status, enrollment status, and policy information, if available. The TPL vendor, which has access to large databases of private and public insurance information, uses the DOR/CSE information to match MassHealth members to noncustodial parents' insurance.

DOR/CSE stated that the data it sends to MassHealth's TPL vendor includes information about families who are or were recipients of Temporary Assistance for Needy Families ("TANF"). TANF is a program that provides cash assistance, among other benefits, to low-income families. All TANF recipients are also eligible for MassHealth. The Department of Transitional Assistance ("DTA"), which administers the TANF program, is required by regulation to refer TANF recipients who have assigned their rights to child support and health insurance to DOR/CSE, with some limited exceptions. Because all TANF recipients are also eligible for MassHealth, applicants complete assignments of rights for both DTA and MassHealth as part of their TANF application. DOR/CSE establishes and enforces, to the greatest extent possible, child support and health insurance orders in these cases. It is these cases from which the greatest cost savings are derived.

II. MassHealth's TPL vendor also uses MBR information to pursue TPL.

In addition to acting on information it receives from DOR/CSE, MassHealth's TPL vendor uses MBR information to pursue TPL, including identifying the existence of health insurance from a

noncustodial parent. If the custodial parent's MBR contains sufficient information about a noncustodial parent's health insurance, the TPL vendor verifies with the insurer whether the noncustodial parent has an active policy, and whether the dependent child(ren) and/or custodial parent are insured under the policy. When the policy does cover a MassHealth member, the vendor then identifies the insurer as the primary payor of the member's future health care claims and also bills the insurer for any claims that MassHealth already paid.¹¹ If the MBR does not disclose adequate information regarding a noncustodial parent's health insurance, the TPL vendor conducts monthly data matches with the vendor's large databases of insurance information to determine whether the noncustodial parent has health insurance.

The Office is encouraged by the TPL vendor's utilization of these databases. However, the vendor's insurance checks are entirely dependent upon the quality of the information collected on the MBR regarding the noncustodial parent's health insurance.

Moreover, there are at least two situations involving noncustodial parents in which MassHealth typically does not recover TPL: (1) if the noncustodial parent has health insurance but the dependent child(ren) and/or the custodial parent are not included on the policy; and (2) if the noncustodial parent does not have health insurance. MassHealth limits its review in these instances to determining whether members are already covered by a noncustodial parent's insurance. MassHealth's focus is on existing coverage, not on potential coverage.

III. MassHealth does not pursue potential coverage from a noncustodial parent, even when there is a health insurance order.

Although MassHealth receives information from DOR/CSE and provides information to its TPL vendor, it does not pursue potential coverage from a noncustodial parent, even when the MBR discloses the existence of a health insurance order. MassHealth does not request that the custodial parent follow up with the noncustodial parent, either informally or formally, to ensure that the noncustodial parent complies with the terms of the order. MassHealth does not contact the noncustodial parent to inquire about the status of that parent's health insurance. Most important, MassHealth does not currently share its MBR information with DOR/CSE, thereby

¹¹ In this situation, MassHealth usually becomes the secondary payor of the member's health care claims and pays for most of the member's health care costs that are not paid by the primary insurer. There are limited circumstances in which the discovery of a private insurance policy would mean that the member is no longer eligible for MassHealth.

missing opportunities to obtain new, and to enforce existing, health insurance orders against noncustodial parents. In short, MassHealth does not have policies or procedures in place to try to make the noncustodial parent obtain coverage for the dependent child(ren) and/or the custodial parent.

IV. Prior to March 2011, MassHealth did not require applicants to provide complete information necessary to pursue noncustodial parent health insurance before making an initial eligibility determination.

A review of the applicable state regulations, federal regulations, and instructions and questions on the MBR indicates that (1) a custodial parent applicant must fully complete the MBR in order to be eligible for Medicaid; and (2) MassHealth must verify the information that the applicant provides before making an eligibility determination. *See* 130 C.M.R. § 502.001(E); 130 C.M.R. § 503.004(B) and (C); 42 C.F.R. § 433.138(b)(1), (c), and (d)(1); 42 C.F.R. § 433.145(a)(2) and (3); 42 C.F.R. § 433.147(a) and (b); 42 C.F.R. § 433.148(a); MBR instructions; and Supplement B to the MBR. The Office asked specifically about MassHealth's policies and procedures to verify noncustodial parent information, or to collect such additional information, during the eligibility determination process. Based on interviews with MassHealth staff and on the Office's review of the MA21 snapshot, the Office learned that, prior to March 2011, MassHealth did not require applicants to fill out Supplement B; signing the form was considered sufficient. In fact, the MA21 snapshot that this Office reviewed demonstrated that of the 158,066 Medicaid members (dependent children and custodial parents) who did not claim good cause and who were associated with a noncustodial parent:

- The noncustodial parent's birthdate was left blank for 67,449 members.
- The noncustodial parent's address was left blank for 100,666 members.
- The noncustodial parent's Social Security number was left blank for 116,339 members.
- The noncustodial parent's employer was left blank for 125,878 members.
- The existence of a health insurance order was left blank for 103,757 members.

The Office understands that a Medicaid applicant may not have all of the requested information at his fingertips, or may not be able to find some of the information at all. MassHealth, however, has a number of powerful tools at its disposal to find and verify much of this information during

the eligibility determination process.¹² The fact that so many items related to noncustodial parents were not reported on the MBR hampered MassHealth's ability to identify potential sources of health insurance. In particular, with so much information missing, MassHealth could not easily identify those noncustodial parents who had the legal responsibility to provide coverage to dependent children and custodial parents in the Medicaid program.

As noted above, MassHealth was attempting to recover TPL only from noncustodial parents who already provide health insurance for the custodial parents and/or their dependent children. One might therefore observe that, because of MassHealth's narrow TPL focus, the lack of MBR information did not make matters worse.¹³ But the Office views MassHealth's limited TPL focus and its failure to gather MBR information as two indicia of a broader issue: MassHealth is not following federal regulations that require it to gather certain information (*e.g.*, the names, Social Security numbers, and employers, if available, of noncustodial parents), and to use that information to pursue noncustodial parent TPL. *See* 42 C.F.R. § 433.138(a)-(d).

V. It is unclear how much Supplement B information MassHealth has required Medicaid applicants to provide since March 2011.

It is evident from the MA21 snapshot that, prior to March 2011, MassHealth did not require applicants to fill out Supplement B completely in order to be eligible for Medicaid. When the Office asked MassHealth staff about the large amount of Supplement B information that was missing, MassHealth staff informed the Office that as long as a Medicaid member signed Supplement B, that was sufficient. This answer, while inconsistent with several federal and state regulations, was confirmed by MassHealth staff on multiple occasions. The answer was, however, entirely consistent with the large amount of missing Supplement B data on the MA21 snapshot.

¹² MassHealth's most powerful tool is to deny eligibility for the custodial parent due to lack of cooperation. Two caveats should be noted with respect to this tool. First, it applies only to the custodial parent and not to any dependent children under 19 years old. *See* 42 C.F.R. § 433.148(b). Second, there is a proposed change to 42 C.F.R. § 433.148(b) that would require states to provide Medicaid coverage and then enforce applicants' duty to cooperate, meaning that a custodial parent who failed to cooperate with MassHealth in pursuing TPL would be enrolled in Medicaid but would be terminated shortly thereafter. *See* Proposed Rule: 78 Fed. Reg. 4628, 4684 (proposed January 22, 2013) (to be codified at 42 C.F.R. § 433.148).

¹³ Note that the missing MBR information adversely affects even MassHealth's narrow TPL focus. MassHealth's TPL vendor indicated that when the vendor does not have enough identifying information about the noncustodial parent, it is more difficult to identify that parent's health insurance policy, which means that it is also more difficult to discern whether the custodial parent and dependent child(ren) are covered by such a policy.

Nevertheless, in March 2011 MassHealth issued “Eligibility Operations Memo 11-02,” which appears to adopt a policy different from the one MassHealth staff had described in prior discussions with the Office. Specifically, the memo indicates that if a Medicaid applicant is supposed to fill out Supplement B but neglects to do so, “MA21 will send a verification notice with an AP-1 form.” The AP-1 form is a stand-alone form that contains the same information as the MBR Supplement B.

The memo states the “[f]ailure to complete and return the verification within the required timeframe¹⁴ will result in denial or termination of benefits for the custodial parent(s).” Eligibility Operations Memo 11-02, p. 4. If MassHealth is in fact consistently using this verification tool, MassHealth would be collecting much more noncustodial parent information than it did before March 2011. In response to the Office’s request, MassHealth staff reviewed the memo and apprised the Office on the memo’s impact on MassHealth’s procedures for pursuing TPL from noncustodial parents. According to MassHealth staff, the agency changed its practices in March 2011 and began requiring applicants who filled out Supplement B to provide at least the following three pieces of information: (1) the name of the noncustodial parent, (2) the noncustodial parent’s relationship to the child(ren) and (3) the names of the custodial parent’s child(ren). If the applicant provides these three pieces of information and signs at the bottom, MassHealth considers Supplement B to be complete and does not send a verification notice (with an AP-1 form) to the applicant.

The Office plans to examine MassHealth’s implementation of the AP-1 process. The Office will follow up on this issue in a future report and has already requested a current MA21 snapshot from MassHealth to examine the information-gathering process. If they are, that might mean that MassHealth’s TPL vendor is now able to identify more noncustodial parent health insurance policies that cover custodial parents and dependent children receiving Medicaid. It would also mean that if MassHealth and DOR/CSE adopt a policy under which MassHealth provides noncustodial parent information to DOR/CSE, then DOR/CSE would have more information to enable it to obtain health insurance orders requiring noncustodial parents to provide health insurance for custodial parents and dependent children.

¹⁴ MassHealth staff informed the Office that the timeframe is 60 days.

VI. The MBR's Supplement B is confusing and also does not request important information that would help MassHealth to pursue noncustodial health insurance.

There are aspects of the MBR's Supplement B that are confusing to applicants. Supplement B requires the applicant to provide the name, address, telephone number, Social Security number, date of birth, driver's license number, gender, and employer's name and address for the noncustodial parent. But Supplement B does not provide an applicant with a way to respond that he has seen the requested information but does not know the answer. Rather, applicants who do not know the requested information, or who do not want to provide certain information, appear to leave that field blank. This makes it unclear to MassHealth whether the applicant is failing to cooperate or is unable to provide the answer.

Supplement B also asks whether there is a "medical-support order" [*i.e.*, a health insurance order] in place and provides "yes" and "no" check boxes, but again there is no option to indicate that the applicant does not know the answer. And while the term "medical-support order" might be clear to a lawyer familiar with domestic law, a layperson could easily confuse the meaning of the term with that of a "health care proxy." The confusion could be avoided by asking if a court has ordered the noncustodial parent to provide health insurance for the dependent child(ren) and asking separately if a court has ordered the noncustodial parent to provide health insurance for the custodial parent.

Supplement B also does not request some important information that would help MassHealth to pursue noncustodial health insurance. It does not request the name of the city, town, county, state and country in which the health insurance order was obtained, or the docket number of the divorce or paternity case. Supplement B does not inquire whether the noncustodial parent is currently married, which could provide some insight into that parent's financial resources. Moreover, Supplement B does not ask the custodial parent whether the noncustodial parent has health insurance and, if so, the name of the health insurer, whether the insurance covers the dependent child(ren) and whether the insurance covers the applicant.

Recommendations

Based on the findings above, the Office makes the following recommendations for MassHealth to strengthen its efforts regarding TPL and noncustodial parents:

I. In order to obtain the information necessary to pursue TPL coverage, MassHealth should simplify the language on the MBR and should add new questions.

The Office suggests that the MBR use simpler language to explain what it needs. The language of the MBR mirrors the statutes and regulations too closely, and may create confusion and ambiguity for applicants. By creating a form that is clear and easier to follow, MassHealth would obtain more information because applicants would understand better what is required. And when MassHealth receives more complete information, it is better able to determine eligibility accurately and ensure that it remains the payor of last resort.

The Office also recommends that MassHealth expand the questions on Supplement B to gather additional information that would assist MassHealth to identify existing and potential health insurance from noncustodial parents. For example, Supplement B could include check boxes that allow the applicant to indicate “I don’t know” for the requested information. The presence of these boxes would enable an applicant to complete the form in its entirety, rather than leaving sections blank. During the eligibility determination process, a checked box could trigger the need for further investigation.

The Office therefore suggests the following changes to the MBR Supplement B, to the extent allowed by federal law:

- Important Supplement B questions should have a check box that allows the applicant to indicate that he does not know the answer to the question. Depending on the other responses on Supplement B, MassHealth may need to follow up with the applicant to obtain additional information.
- The term “medical-support order” should either be defined clearly or should be replaced with questions asking: (1) if a court has ordered the noncustodial parent to provide health insurance for the dependent child(ren) and (2) if a court has ordered the noncustodial parent to provide health insurance for the custodial parent.
- Supplement B should include additional questions regarding the health insurance orders. Docket numbers and other identifying information (such as case name; the year the case was filed; and the city, town, county, state and

country in which the order was obtained) would assist MassHealth, DOR/CSE and other agencies in determining whether the order exists. This information is even more important if the applicants are not in the DOR/CSE system.

- Supplement B should inquire whether the noncustodial parent is currently married, which could provide some insight into that parent's financial resources.
- Supplement B should ask whether the noncustodial parent has health insurance and, if so, the name of the health insurer, the policy number, whether the insurance covers the dependent child(ren) and whether the insurance covers the applicant.
- Supplement B should require applicants with health insurance orders to provide a copy of the order to MassHealth. The MBR already requires that applicants send to MassHealth documentary proof of all income, HIV positive status if applicable, United States citizenship if applicable, immigration cards if applicable, and an application for a social security number. In keeping with the requirement that an applicant must provide documentary support for other information, the MBR should also require an applicant who indicates that there is a health insurance order to send a copy of the order to MassHealth with the MBR.

II. MassHealth should require applicants to answer all the questions on Supplement B and any other questions related to noncustodial parents' health insurance.

After reviewing the noncustodial parent information in the MA21 snapshot, the Office found that, prior to March 2011, many applicants did not report even the most basic information about the noncustodial parent. Applicants failed to report the noncustodial parent's name, address, Social Security number, date of birth, employer, or the existence of a health insurance order.

The Office points out that the information requested on the MBR and Supplement B is currently required by both federal and state regulations. And MassHealth has an obligation under federal regulations to take reasonable measures to determine the legal liability of third parties who are liable to pay for health care services. MassHealth also has an obligation under current federal regulations to ensure that applicants cooperate with the eligibility determination process. Indeed, MassHealth's own regulations specifically require a "complete" MBR that "includes all required information and verifications." With specific regard to noncustodial parent information, MassHealth's regulations require an applicant to provide information to help pursue any health insurance or other TPL, and state that the failure to do so will exclude the applicant from the receipt of Medicaid benefits.

To fulfill its legal obligations, MassHealth should seek to ascertain this basic information from the applicant either before determining eligibility or shortly thereafter, depending on whether the proposed change to 42 C.F.R. § 433.147 is adopted.¹⁵ The Office recommends that MassHealth investigate how it can obtain this information, and then use this information to assist MassHealth in making better eligibility determinations and find TPL more quickly, both of which could improve the Massachusetts Medicaid program.

As noted above, it is unclear whether MassHealth changed its information collection practices when it issued Eligibility Operations Memo 11-02 in March 2011. The Office plans to study this issue to further evaluate MassHealth's efforts to access health insurance from noncustodial parents who are legally responsible for providing health insurance to Medicaid members.

III. MassHealth should expand its efforts to use information obtained from the MBR to evaluate TPL opportunities involving noncustodial parents.

- A. MassHealth should perform data matching with all possible sources before making an eligibility determination.

Once MassHealth has obtained a complete MBR, it should use the provided information to investigate an applicant's eligibility and identify possible TPL sources, including health insurance from noncustodial parents. MassHealth's own regulations permit it to match information from the MBR with other agencies and information sources to update or verify eligibility. As noted previously, the regulations list a whole host of agencies and information sources, including the Division of Unemployment Assistance, the Department of Public Health's Bureau of Vital Statistics, the Department of Industrial Accidents, the Department of Veterans' Services, the Department of Revenue, the Bureau of Special Investigations, the Internal Revenue Service, the Social Security Administration, the Alien Verification Information System, the Department of Transitional Assistance, and health insurance carriers.

¹⁵ The Office takes no position as to whether state and federal regulations should require Medicaid applicants to cooperate with MassHealth's TPL efforts before initial eligibility is determined. MassHealth should follow the federal Medicaid regulations and its own regulations. Although the federal regulations may be revised, the existing and proposed federal regulations allow MassHealth to determine the presence of a health insurance order shortly after the initial application. Whichever version of the federal regulations applies, MassHealth should work towards determining whether there is a noncustodial health insurance order shortly after the initial MBR application is made, and then before all member redeterminations that periodically occur.

Similarly, MassHealth should consider using information-gathering tools offered by private entities, although it would make sense for MassHealth to consider the costs and benefits of such tools first.

- B. MassHealth should send information from the MBR, including Supplement B, to DOR/CSE.

As mentioned above, DOR/CSE sends information to MassHealth each month regarding its entire caseload, with limited exceptions. The file includes specific identifying demographic data, household information, noncustodial parent court order status, enrollment status, and policy information, if available. MassHealth does not, however, send MBR information to DOR/CSE, either as part of the eligibility process or after the eligibility determination has been made.¹⁶

The Office inquired as to the policies and procedures that MassHealth follows to pursue TPL recoveries for Medicaid members who have the right to obtain – but who do not have – health insurance coverage from a noncustodial parent. MassHealth responded that it currently has no such policies or procedures but noted that it was working with DOR/CSE to develop rules for when MassHealth should share noncustodial parent information with DOR/CSE, which could then lead to DOR/CSE obtaining coverage for some of those Medicaid members. While MassHealth has not yet implemented a referral process, the two agencies have made progress, including analyzing the cost-effectiveness of such a process and preparing a set of business rules to help determine which cases MassHealth would refer to DOR/CSE.

The Office understands that referrals of specific cases must meet certain threshold requirements to address concerns with cost-effectiveness. The rationale for defining appropriate referrals is informed by the Medicaid requirement that pursuit of TPL must be cost-effective. Considerations in evaluating the cost-effectiveness of different referral types include:

- Ensuring that MassHealth refers only those cases with a significant chance of obtaining health insurance for the custodial parent and/or the dependent child(ren).

¹⁶ The Federal Office of Child Support Enforcement (“FOCSE”) does not require MassHealth to refer all Medicaid cases involving noncustodial parents to DOR/CSE to obtain and enforce health insurance orders against noncustodial parents. Instead, FOCSE guidance indicates that MassHealth should refer only those cases which it deems appropriate based on efficiency and cost-effectiveness criteria. *See* Guidance on Referral of Medicaid cases to Title IV-D Child Support Enforcement Agencies, IM-08-03, April 22, 2008.

<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/css/resource/guidance-on-referral-of-medicaid-cases-to-title-iv-d-child-support>.

- Avoiding scenarios in which families go on and off Medicaid repeatedly because the noncustodial parent cannot maintain steady employment. These scenarios can cause increased administrative costs for MassHealth and DOR/CSE and can also have adverse health and financial effects on the families.

The Office also recognizes that there are two categories of MBRs relating to noncustodial parents. The first category involves an MBR on which the custodial parent has indicated that there is a health insurance order. When an applicant reports the existence of a health insurance order, it does not necessarily mean that the dependent is in fact enrolled in the noncustodial parent's private health insurance, or that the noncustodial parent even has access to health insurance. Rather, it presents MassHealth with an important opportunity to verify whether there is a private alternative to Medicaid and to coordinate with DOR/CSE in those cases in which there is a noncustodial parent who is not complying with the requirements of a court order.

The second category involves an MBR on which the custodial parent has indicated that there is no health insurance order.¹⁷ For these situations, the Office recommends that DOR/CSE finalize their policy so that MassHealth can begin to refer cases to DOR/CSE for initiation of proceedings with noncustodial parents for medical support when appropriate.

MassHealth should pursue this important policy change expeditiously, although the Office notes that MassHealth has examined the possibility of sharing its noncustodial parent information with DOR/CSE since 2009. By not providing DOR/CSE with such information, MassHealth has missed a significant number of TPL recovery opportunities.

¹⁷ Technically, there is a third category of MBRs relating to noncustodial parents – specifically, those MBRs on which the custodial parent has not answered whether there is a health insurance order. MassHealth should eliminate this category by requiring the custodial parent applicants and members to answer all of the questions about health insurance orders.

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Conclusion

The Office's review indicates that MassHealth and its TPL vendor have policies and procedures in place when a Medicaid member is already covered by a noncustodial parent's existing health insurance. When the member is not covered by a noncustodial parent's policy – either because the noncustodial parent has no health insurance or because the noncustodial parent has a policy that does not name the member as a beneficiary – MassHealth does not pursue Medicaid TPL recoveries. This practice is inconsistent with federal and state regulations.

Moreover, at least prior to March 2011 and possibly since then, MassHealth has not required Medicaid applicants to complete Supplement B (except to sign it). This also violates federal Medicaid regulations, and it prevents MassHealth from obtaining the information necessary to pursue TPL for Medicaid members who should be, but who are not, covered by a noncustodial parent's health insurance. In addition, the MBR and Supplement B are confusing in certain places, and they do not request important information that could help MassHealth's TPL recovery efforts.

Furthermore, MassHealth misses TPL recovery opportunities because it does not share the Supplement B information it does receive with DOR/CSE. The flow of information between these two state agencies travels only in one direction currently – from DOR/CSE to MassHealth. The two agencies are working to remedy this problem by adopting a set of rules to define when it is cost-effective for MassHealth to pursue health insurance orders. The Office applauds those efforts, but notes that adopting such rules has been delayed over the past few years and thus significant opportunities to pursue Medicaid TPL recoveries from noncustodial parents' health insurance may have been missed.

The well-being of Medicaid members is inextricably linked to the financial well-being of the Medicaid program. MassHealth can help all Medicaid members by following the federal and state rules that are designed to facilitate MassHealth's use of TPL derived from noncustodial parents' health insurance. The Office will follow up and report to the Legislature on MassHealth's progress in addressing the issues raised in this analysis.

Appendix A: MassHealth Medical Benefit Request Form

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Getting Started

You can fill out the Medical Benefit Request (MBR) on your computer, then print it. Or, you can print a blank copy and fill it out by hand. Make sure you sign and date the MBR on page 7. Then send it with proof of your income and proof of your U.S. citizenship/national status and identity to the address listed on the MBR instruction page.

To fill out the MBR on-line, use the mouse to **click** on the first field you want to fill out **on each page**. Type the necessary information, then press the Tab key to move to the next field, or use the mouse to click on the next field. To fill a check box, click on the box using the mouse, or tab to the field, and when the box has a dotted line around it, press the enter key. If you need to go back to another field, click on that field with your mouse. To go from one page to the next, tab to "Please go to the next page.", and when highlighted, press tab, or use the mouse to click on the first field on each page.

After you print the filled-out MBR, YOU MUST click on the "Clear entire form" button at the bottom of page 7. This will remove all the information you entered on the MBR so no one can see your personal information.

Please read these instructions before you fill out the application.

Dear Applicant:

This is your application for **MassHealth**, the **Children’s Medical Security Plan (CMSP)**, **Healthy Start**, and the **Health Safety Net***. MassHealth gives health-care coverage and helps pay for health-insurance premiums for families, children, and individuals. The kind of coverage you get depends on your family size, income, and other circumstances. After your application is filled out and reviewed, MassHealth will give you **the most complete coverage that you qualify for**.

This application is also used to apply for **Commonwealth Care**. Commonwealth Care is a program administered by the Commonwealth Health Insurance Connector Authority (“the Health Connector”) for certain adults who are not eligible for MassHealth. Commonwealth Care helps pay for health-insurance premiums for health plans that are approved by the Health Connector. For more information, see pages 3 and 21 in the MassHealth Member Booklet.

This application is for people who live in Massachusetts, are not living in or about to go into a nursing home, and are under age 65. This application may also be used by people of any age who are parents of children under age 19, or who are adult relatives living with and taking care of children under age 19 when neither parent is living in the home, or who are disabled and work 40 or more hours a month or are currently working and have worked at least 240 hours in the six months immediately before the month of the MassHealth application. If this application is not for you, call MassHealth Customer Service at 1-800-841-2900 (TTY: 1-800-497-4648 for people who are deaf, hard of hearing, or speech disabled).

Please list only one family group on an application. A family group can be parents, stepparents, or adoptive parents of any age and any of their children under age 19 who are all living together. If no parents are living at home, a family group may be siblings under age 19, or children under age 19 and an adult related by blood, adoption, or marriage, or a spouse or former spouse of one of those relatives who are all living together. A family group can also be an individual or a married couple who are living together with no children under the age of 19. If more than one family group lives in your home, each family group must fill out a separate application. MassHealth will send all eligibility notices to the person who is your “head of household,” and to your eligibility representative, if you have one.

Please read the attached MassHealth Member Booklet carefully before you fill out the application. Keep the booklet. It may answer questions you have later.

When you fill out the application, be sure to:

- Answer **all** questions, and fill out all sections and any supplements that apply to you and your family.
- **Sign and date the application.** The head of household, all applicants aged 18 or older, and all parents of any age who have children living with them must sign.
- Send proof of all income, like a copy of one recent pay stub. (You do not have to send proof of social security or SSI income.)
- Send proof of your HIV-positive status only if you want to see if you are eligible for MassHealth because you are HIV positive.
- Send proof of U.S. citizenship/national status and proof of identity, like U.S. passports or U.S. naturalization papers. You can also prove U.S. citizenship with a U.S. birth certificate or a U.S. hospital birth record. You can also prove identity with a driver’s license, some other form of government-issued identity card, or a school identification card. We may be able to prove your identity through the Massachusetts Registry of Motor Vehicles records if you have a Massachusetts driver’s license or a Massachusetts ID card. Once you give MassHealth proof of your U.S. citizenship/national status and identity, you will not have to give us this proof again. You must give us proof of identity for all family members who are applying. **Seniors and disabled persons who get or can get Medicare or Supplemental Security Income (SSI), or disabled persons who get Social Security Disability (SSDI) do not have to give proof of their U.S. citizenship/national status and identity.** A child born to a mother who was getting MassHealth on the date of the child’s birth does not have to give proof of U.S. citizenship/national status and identity. (See pages 28-29 in the MassHealth Member Booklet for complete information about acceptable proofs.)
- Send a copy of both sides of all immigration cards (or other documents that show immigration status) for every family member who is not a U.S. citizen/national and who is applying for MassHealth or Commonwealth Care, except for MassHealth Limited, CMSP, Healthy Start, or the Health Safety Net. (See Supplement C.)
- Give us a social security number (SSN) or proof that you have applied for an SSN for every family member who is applying for MassHealth or Commonwealth Care. However, you do not need to give us an SSN or proof you applied for an SSN to get MassHealth Limited, CMSP, Healthy Start, or the Health Safety Net.

* **Information you provide on this application will be used to determine low-income patient status for provider payments from the Health Safety Net.**

Sign and date the application after you fill it out. Send the application and all other needed papers to:

**MassHealth Enrollment Center
Central Processing Unit
P.O. Box 290794
Charlestown, MA 02129-0214**

The information you give us is kept confidential, as required by state and federal laws. If you want us to share information about your MassHealth eligibility (including copies of notices we send you) with someone other than your eligibility representative, if you have one, please call MassHealth to get a MassHealth Permission to Share Information Form.

When filling out this application, please remember the following.

- Make sure you fill out the application correctly and completely. If we need to contact you to get more information because we do not understand what you entered on the application, it will take us longer to decide if you are eligible or not for health benefits.
- Make sure on pages 2 through 4 of the application in the sections “Working Income,” “Nonworking Income,” and “College Student” that **each family member who has income and/or is aged 19 or older fills out each of these sections correctly.**
- Please remember when filling out the “Health Insurance” section on pages 4 and 5, that:
 - Part A is for listing the health insurance you have now, and Part B is for health insurance you may be eligible for; and
 - you will not be eligible for Commonwealth Care if you have or can get insurance from a government insurance program including, but not limited to:
 - Medicare;
 - TRICARE (dependents of the military);
 - Medical Security Program (through the Division of Unemployment Assistance); or
 - student health insurance from a Massachusetts school.
- Make sure on page 6 of the application in the section “Injury, Illness, Disability, or Accommodation” that you answer “yes” or “no” to **all** of the questions. Do not leave any answer blank.
- If you answer “yes” to either question on page 6 of the application in the section “Absent Parent,” then you **must** fill out Supplement B according to the instructions for Supplement B. If the other parent of the child is living in the same household as the child but does not want to apply for MassHealth, make sure to list that parent on page 1 of the application in the section “Other Family Members.”

If you have any questions about this application or the information you need to send, please call MassHealth Customer Service at 1-800-841-2900 (TTY: 1-800-497-4648 for people who are deaf, hard of hearing, or speech disabled).

When we get your filled-out, signed, and dated application, we will review it. If more information is needed, we will write or call you. **Once we get all needed information, we will make a decision about your eligibility. We will send you a written notice about this decision.** If you are determined eligible for MassHealth, show this notice right away to any health-care provider if you already paid for medical services that would be covered by MassHealth during your eligibility period. If the health-care provider determines that MassHealth will pay for these services, the provider will refund what you paid.

To start filling out this application, please turn to page 1 of this application.

Remember, you must read, sign, and date page 7 after you have filled out the application.

Medical Benefit Request



For office use only

Date received:

This is an application for **MassHealth**, the **Children's Medical Security Plan (CMSP)**, **Healthy Start**, **Commonwealth Care**, and the **Health Safety Net**. You do not have to be a U.S. citizen/national to get these benefits. **Please print clearly.** Please answer **all** questions and fill out all sections and any supplements that apply to you and your family. If you need more space to finish any section on this form, please use a separate sheet of paper (include your name and social security number), and attach it to this form.

Head of Household

HOH

1. Last name	First name	MI	Street address	City	State	Zip
Mailing address (if different from street address or if living in a shelter) <input type="checkbox"/> homeless						
			City	State	Zip	
Is this person applying? <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no		If yes , is this person a U.S. citizen/national? <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no		Social security number*		
Date of birth / /	Gender <input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> F	Spoken language choice		Written language choice		
Telephone numbers Home: ()		Cell: ()		Work: ()		
Race (optional)	Ethnicity (optional)		E-mail			

Other Family Members

List all other members of your family group. **Do not repeat head of household information in this section.**
See instruction page for description of a family group.

2. Last name	First name	MI				
Is this person applying? <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no		If yes , is this person a U.S. citizen/national? <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no		Social security number*		
Date of birth / /	Gender <input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> F	Spoken language choice		Written language choice		
Race (optional)	Ethnicity (optional)		Relationship to head of household			
3. Last name	First name	MI				
Is this person applying? <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no		If yes , is this person a U.S. citizen/national? <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no		Social security number*		
Date of birth / /	Gender <input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> F	Spoken language choice		Written language choice		
Race (optional)	Ethnicity (optional)		Relationship to head of household			
4. Last name	First name	MI				
Is this person applying? <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no		If yes , is this person a U.S. citizen/national? <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no		Social security number*		
Date of birth / /	Gender <input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> F	Spoken language choice		Written language choice		
Race (optional)	Ethnicity (optional)		Relationship to head of household			

*Required, if one has been issued and this person is applying for MassHealth or Commonwealth Care, except for MassHealth Limited, CMSP, Healthy Start, or the Health Safety Net.

Pregnancy

Are you or any family member pregnant? <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no	Name:					
Are you or this person pregnant with: <input type="checkbox"/> 1 baby? <input type="checkbox"/> twins? <input type="checkbox"/> triplets? If more, how many? _____	Due date / /					

Residency (You must fill out this section.)

MAR

Are you and all members of your household who are applying for benefits living in Massachusetts with the intention to stay? yes no

If **no**, list the names of the members of your household (including yourself)* who are applying and who are **not** residents of Massachusetts and who intend to leave.

*Do not include infants born in Massachusetts who have not left the state.

General instructions for filling out the Working Income, Nonworking Income, AND College Student sections

Each family member who has income and/or is aged 19 or older must fill out all sections on this page through page 4.

Working Income (You must fill out this section.)

EIN

1. Name

Is this person currently working or seasonally employed? (You must answer this question.) yes no

If **yes**, fill out the **Employer Information** section below.

If **no**, answer the next two questions below. You do not have to fill out the "Employer Information" section below.

Has this person worked in the last 12 months before the date of application? yes no

If **yes**, how much did this person earn in the last 12 months before taxes and deductions? **Note:** If you answered "**yes**" to this question, you **MUST** enter a dollar amount on this line. \$ _____ If **no**, go to the next section (*Nonworking Income*).

Employer Information Employer name

Employer address, and telephone number

Type of work (*Check all that apply.*) full-time day labor part-time seasonal yearly wage: \$ _____
 self-employed sheltered workshop yearly wage: \$ _____

Number of hours per week Weekly pay before deductions \$ Date began getting this amount of pay / /

Is health insurance offered that would cover doctors' visits and hospitalizations? yes no
(Answer **yes** even if you cannot get it now, chose not to sign up for it, or dropped insurance that was available.)

If you answered **no** to the above question, was health insurance offered in the last six months? yes no

Send proof of income, like a copy of one recent pay stub. If self-employed, see the MassHealth Member Booklet for information about the needed proof.

2. Name

Is this person currently working or seasonally employed? (You must answer this question.) yes no

If **yes**, fill out the **Employer Information** section below.

If **no**, answer the next two questions below. You do not have to fill out the "Employer Information" section below.

Has this person worked in the last 12 months before the date of application? yes no

If **yes**, how much did this person earn in the last 12 months before taxes and deductions? **Note:** If you answered "**yes**" to this question, you **MUST** enter a dollar amount on this line. \$ _____ If **no**, go to the next section (*Nonworking Income*).

Employer Information Employer name

Employer address, and telephone number

Type of work (*Check all that apply.*) full-time day labor part-time seasonal yearly wage: \$ _____
 self-employed sheltered workshop yearly wage: \$ _____

Number of hours per week Weekly pay before deductions \$ Date began getting this amount of pay / /

Is health insurance offered that would cover doctors' visits and hospitalizations? yes no
(Answer **yes** even if you cannot get it now, chose not to sign up for it, or dropped insurance that was available.)

If you answered **no** to the above question, was health insurance offered in the last six months? yes no

Send proof of income, like a copy of one recent pay stub. If self-employed, see the MassHealth Member Booklet for information about the needed proof.

Nonworking Income (You must fill out this section.)

Rental Income Do you or any family member get rental income? (You must answer this question.) yes no

REN

If **yes**, enter the monthly amount of rental income (before taxes and deductions) on this line. \$ _____

Name of person getting rental income _____

If **no**, go to the next section (*Unemployment Benefits*).

Send proof of rental income.

Unemployment Benefits Are you or any family member getting an unemployment check? (You must answer this question.) yes no

UN

If **yes**, fill out this section and answer all questions. **Send proof** of unemployment benefits.

If **no**, go to the next section (*Other Nonworking Income*).

Name of person getting unemployment benefits _____

Is this check from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts? yes no

If **yes**, in the 12 months before this person became unemployed, did this person work for an employer in Massachusetts? yes no
(Do not include federal employers, like the U.S. Postal Service.)

Enter the monthly amount of unemployment benefits (before taxes and deductions). \$ _____

Name of person getting unemployment benefits _____

Is this check from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts? yes no

If **yes**, in the 12 months before this person became unemployed, did this person work for an employer in Massachusetts? yes no
(Do not include federal employers, like the U.S. Postal Service.)

Enter the monthly amount of unemployment benefits (before taxes and deductions). \$ _____

Other Nonworking Income Do you or any family member have any other income? (You must answer this question.) yes no

UN

If **yes**, fill out this section.

If **no**, go to the next section (*College Student*).

Please describe the source of the income (where it comes from) for each family member. If anyone has more than one source, list on separate lines.

Send proof. Some types of other income are: (You do not have to send proof of social security or SSI income.)

- alimony
- annuities
- child support
- dividends or interest
- pensions
- retirement
- social security
- SSI
- trusts
- veterans' benefits (federal, state, or city)
- workers' compensation
- other (*Please describe below.*)

Name	Type of income (all that apply from list above)
Source (where the income comes from)	Monthly amount before taxes \$
Name	Type of income (all that apply from list above)
Source (where the income comes from)	Monthly amount before taxes \$
Name	Type of income (all that apply from list above)
Source (where the income comes from)	Monthly amount before taxes \$

College Student (You must fill out this section.)

Are you or any family member a college student? (You must answer this question.) yes no

If **yes**, fill out this section and answer all questions.

If **no**, go to the next section (*Health Insurance You Have Now and Subsidized Health Insurance You May Be Eligible For*).

1. Name of college student

Is this person eligible for health insurance from college? yes no

Is this person a college student in Massachusetts with at least 75% of a full-time schedule? yes no

(**Note:** If you are not sure that this person has 75% of a full-time schedule, contact the school to find out if the number of credits the student is taking would require the student to get the health insurance the school offers to students.)

If yes, is this student planning to get health-insurance coverage from the school, but is waiting for coverage to start? yes no

If yes, what is the date that the school health-insurance coverage starts? ___ / ___ / ___

2. Name of college student

Is this person eligible for health insurance from college? yes no

Is this person a college student in Massachusetts with at least 75% of a full-time schedule? yes no

(**Note:** If you are not sure that this person has 75% of a full-time schedule, contact the school to find out if the number of credits the student is taking would require the student to get the health insurance the school offers to students.)

If yes, is this student planning to get health-insurance coverage from the school, but is waiting for coverage to start? yes no

If yes, what is the date that the school health-insurance coverage starts? ___ / ___ / ___

Health Insurance You Have Now and Subsidized Health Insurance You May Be Eligible For

Even if you or any family member have other health insurance, MassHealth may be able to help you pay your premiums. Health insurance can be from an employer, an absent parent, a union, a school, Medicare, or Medicare supplemental insurance, like Medex. **All applicants must fill out the health insurance section. Do not include MassHealth or any health plan you enrolled in through Commonwealth Care when answering the questions below.**

Do you or any family member get Medicare benefits? yes no

If **yes**, name(s):

Claim number(s):

Do you or any family member have health insurance other than Medicare? yes no

If **yes**, fill out both **Part A** below and **Part B** on the next page.

If **no**, fill out **Part B** on the next page.

Part A: Health Insurance You Have Now

1. Policyholder name

Date of birth / /

Social security number*

Insurance company name

Policy type (*Check one.*) individual couple (two adults) dual (one adult, one child) family

Policy start date ___ / ___ / ___

Policy number

Group number (if known)

Employer or union name

Policyholder contribution to premium costs (*Complete one.*) \$ _____ per week \$ _____ per quarter \$ _____ per month

Insurance type (*Check one.*) employer or union subsidized (employer or union pays some or all of the insurance cost) TRICARE

other federal or state subsidized (government pays some or all of the insurance cost) student health insurance through school

nonsubsidized, like self-employment or COBRA (policyholder pays total insurance cost) Medical Security Program

Names of covered family members

Insurance coverage (*Check all that apply.*) doctors' visits and hospitalizations catastrophic only vision only pharmacy only dental only

If you have long-term-care insurance, **send a copy** of the policy.

* Required, if obtainable and one has been issued, whether or not this person is applying.

2. Policyholder name		Date of birth / /	
Social security number*		Insurance company name	
Policy type (<i>Check one.</i>) <input type="checkbox"/> individual <input type="checkbox"/> couple (two adults) <input type="checkbox"/> dual (one adult, one child) <input type="checkbox"/> family		Policy start date ____ / ____ / ____	
Policy number		Group number (if known)	
Employer or union name			
Policyholder contribution to premium costs (<i>Complete one.</i>) \$		per week	\$ per quarter
			\$ per month
Insurance type (<i>Check one.</i>) <input type="checkbox"/> employer or union subsidized (employer or union pays some or all of the insurance cost) <input type="checkbox"/> TRICARE			
<input type="checkbox"/> other federal or state subsidized (government pays some or all of the insurance cost) <input type="checkbox"/> student health insurance through school			
<input type="checkbox"/> nonsubsidized, like self-employment or COBRA (policyholder pays total insurance cost) <input type="checkbox"/> Medical Security Program			
Names of covered family members			
Insurance coverage (<i>Check all that apply.</i>) <input type="checkbox"/> doctors' visits and hospitalizations <input type="checkbox"/> catastrophic only <input type="checkbox"/> vision only <input type="checkbox"/> pharmacy only <input type="checkbox"/> dental only			
If you have long-term-care insurance, send a copy of the policy.			
* Required, if obtainable and one has been issued, whether or not this person is applying.			

Part B: Subsidized Health Insurance You May Be Eligible For

Are you or any member of your family in one of the uniformed services? yes no
 If **yes**, fill out the section below. (The uniformed services are the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, Public Health Services, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and the National Guard or Reserves.)

1. Name: _____

Active Duty? <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no	Retiree? <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no	Reserves? <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no	Medal of Honor? <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no
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2. Name: _____

Active Duty? <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no	Retiree? <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no	Reserves? <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no	Medal of Honor? <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no
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Have you or any member of your family served in the U.S. military or can you be considered a dependent of someone who has served in the U.S. military?
 Yes, I have served. Name: _____
 Yes, I am a dependent of someone who has served. Name: _____
 No, I am neither a veteran nor a dependent.

American Indian/Alaska Native

Certain American Indians and Alaska Natives may not have to pay MassHealth premiums and copays.
 Are you or any member of your family who is applying a federally recognized American Indian or Alaska Native who is eligible to receive or has received services from an Indian health-care provider or from a non-Indian health-care provider through referral from an Indian health-care provider? yes no
 If **yes**, name of person(s): _____

General instructions for filling out the Injury, Illness, Disability, or Accommodation, Absent Parent, and U.S. Citizenship/National Status and Immigration Status sections below

The HIV section is optional. You must answer all questions in each of the three sections after the HIV section.

HIV Information (optional)

HIV

MassHealth may give benefits to people who are HIV positive who might not otherwise be eligible.

Do you or any family member who is HIV positive want to apply for these benefits? yes no

If **yes**, fill out this section.

Send proof of income, U.S. citizenship/national status and identity, or qualified alien status to see if you can get benefits for up to 60 days while we wait for you to send us proof of your HIV-positive status. For more information, see the MassHealth Member Booklet.

Name(s):

Injury, Illness, Disability, or Accommodation

Do you or any family member have an injury, illness, or disability (including a disabling mental-health condition) that has lasted or is expected to last for at least 12 months? (If legally blind, answer **yes**.) yes no

Do you or any family member need health care because of an accident or injury? yes no

Do you or any family member applying for MassHealth require a reasonable accommodation because of a disability or injury? yes no

If you answered **yes** to any of these three questions, you must fill out **Supplement A** (the blue sheet).

Absent Parent

Has any child in the household been adopted by a single parent or has a parent who is deceased or unknown? yes no

Does any child in the family have a parent who does not live with you who is not included in the previous question? yes no

If you answered **yes** to either of these questions, you must fill out **Supplement B** (the yellow sheet).

U.S. Citizenship/National Status and Immigration Status

The U.S. citizenship/national status of parents does not affect the eligibility of their children.

U.S. Citizens

For applicants **born in Massachusetts** who want help getting proof of their U.S. citizenship, please fill out **Supplement D** (the red sheet).

For applicants **born outside Massachusetts** who want help getting proof of their U.S. citizenship, MassHealth may be able to help you. Please call MassHealth Customer Service at 1-800-841-2900 (TTY: 1-800-497-4648 for people who are deaf, hard of hearing, or speech disabled).

Persons who are not U.S. citizens/nationals

If you or any other family member applying for MassHealth or Commonwealth Care fits any of the immigration status codes on **Supplement C** (the orange sheet), numbered 1 through 17, you must fill out **Supplement C**.

If you or any other family member applying for benefits does not fit any of the immigration status codes on **Supplement C** (the orange sheet), numbered 1 through 17, you or that family member may get only one or more of the following: MassHealth Limited, Healthy Start, CMSP, or the Health Safety Net.

You do not have to fill out **Supplement C**.

Note: Family members who want to get only one or more of the following: MassHealth Limited, CMSP, Healthy Start, or the Health Safety Net, do not have to give us a social security number. We will not match their names with any other agency including the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). You do not need to send proof of their immigration status. **But you must list their names below.** MassHealth Limited pays for emergency services only. See the MassHealth Member Booklet for more information.

List below the names of family members who want to get only one or more of the following: MassHealth Limited, Healthy Start, CMSP, or the Health Safety Net.

Name(s):

Name(s):

Please read this page carefully, then sign and date the bottom of the page.

This is an application for MassHealth, the Children’s Medical Security Plan (CMSP), Healthy Start, Commonwealth Care, and the Health Safety Net.

I give permission for my current and former employers and health insurers to release to MassHealth, the Commonwealth Health Insurance Connector Authority (“the Health Connector”), and the Health Safety Net (administered by the Executive Office of Health and Human Services) any and all information they have about my health-insurance coverage and health-insurance coverage for members of my family group. This includes, but is not limited to, information about policies, premiums, coinsurance, deductibles, and covered benefits that are, may be, or should have been available to me or members of my family group.

I understand that MassHealth may enroll me in available employer-sponsored health insurance if that insurance meets the criteria for MassHealth payment of premium assistance.

I and my spouse understand that our employers may be notified and billed, in accordance with the regulations of the Health Safety Net, with regard to any services I and my spouse and any of our dependents may get from hospitals or community health centers that are paid for by the Health Safety Net.

If I or any members of my family are found to be eligible for assistance through MassHealth, the Health Connector, or the Health Safety Net, I give permission to MassHealth, the Health Connector (Commonwealth Care), or the Health Safety Net to get any records or data: (1) to prove any information given on this application and any supplements, or other information I give once I am a member; (2) to document medical services claimed or provided; and (3) to support continued eligibility.

I understand that if I am aged 55 or older, MassHealth may be able to get back money from my estate after I die. Under current practice, this does not apply to Commonwealth Care.

I understand that if I or any members of my family are in an accident, or we are injured in some other way, and get money from a third party because of that accident or injury, we will need to use that money to repay: (1) MassHealth (for MassHealth, CMSP, and Healthy Start) or the Health Connector or my current health insurer (for Commonwealth Care) for certain medical services provided (For MassHealth, these certain medical services are explained in the MassHealth Member Booklet. For Commonwealth Care, these certain medical services must have been provided to me by my health insurer.); or (2) the Health Safety Net for medical services reimbursed for me and any family members by the Health Safety Net. I also understand that I must tell MassHealth (for MassHealth, CMSP, and Healthy Start), my health insurer (for Commonwealth Care), or the Health Safety Net in writing, within 10 calendar days, or as soon as possible, if I file any insurance claim or lawsuit because of an accident or injury to me or any family members applying for benefits.

I understand that if I or any members of my family are eligible for MassHealth, CMSP, Healthy Start, Commonwealth Care, or the Health Safety Net, I must tell MassHealth of any changes in my or my family’s income or employment, family size, health-insurance coverage, health-insurance premiums, and immigration status, or of changes in any other information I gave on this application and any supplements within 10 calendar days of learning of the change.

I also understand that by signing below, I give permission to MassHealth to go after and collect third-party payments for medical care and medical support from the parent of any child under age 19 who is applying for benefits.

If I or any members of my family are eligible for MassHealth or CMSP, I understand that I may have to pay a premium set by MassHealth. I also understand that if I fail to pay the premium, MassHealth may refer my past due balance to the State Intercept Program (SIP). If I am a certain American Indian or Alaska Native eligible for MassHealth Family Assistance, I may not have to pay any premiums under MassHealth Family Assistance. If I or any members of my family are eligible for Commonwealth Care, I understand that I may have to pay a premium set by the Health Connector.

I certify that I have read or have had read to me the information on this application, including any supplements and instruction pages attached to it, and the information in the MassHealth Member Booklet, and that I understand my rights and responsibilities. I further certify under penalty of perjury that the information on this application and any supplements, including those submitted with this application as well as any other supplements, forms, or documents that may be submitted to or required by MassHealth, is correct and complete to the best of my knowledge.

If you are acting on behalf of someone in filling out this application and any supplements, the enclosed MassHealth Eligibility Representative Designation Form must also be filled out and sent back with this application. Your signature on this application and any supplements as an eligibility representative certifies that the information on this application and any supplements, including those submitted with this application as well as any other supplements, forms, or documents that may be submitted to or required by MassHealth, is correct and complete to the best of your knowledge.

If you think MassHealth’s decision about whether you are eligible is wrong, you have the right to appeal or file a grievance. If you are denied benefits, you will get information about how to appeal a MassHealth decision and also how to file a grievance about any Health Safety Net decision.

The head of household, all persons aged 18 or older, and all parents of any age who have children living with them who are applying for MassHealth, CMSP, Healthy Start, Commonwealth Care, or the Health Safety Net must read this page carefully, and sign and date below. If you are signing below as an eligibility representative, a filled-out MassHealth Eligibility Representative Designation Form must also be submitted.

X _____
Signature of applicant or eligibility representative Print name Date

X _____
Signature of applicant or eligibility representative Print name Date

Appendix B: Supplement B to the Member Benefit Request: Absent-Parent Questions and Assignment of Rights

Supplement B: Absent-Parent Questions and Assignment of Rights

Do not fill out this supplement if you answered **NO** to both of the absent-parent questions on page 6.

Fill out this supplement only if you answered **YES** to either of the absent-parent questions on page 6.

Please read Part A of Supplement B before you fill out Parts B, C, and D.

You must sign Part E.

Absent Parent

Part A: Cooperation

To get MassHealth for **you and a child who is living with you**, you must cooperate with the Child Support Enforcement Division of the Massachusetts Department of Revenue (DOR) to establish paternity and enforce a medical-support order, unless you have Good Cause not to cooperate. You must also assign your rights for medical support to MassHealth. Cooperation means that you may have to give information about the identity, location, and employment of the absent parent, appear for appointments with DOR staff and the Court, submit to paternity testing, give information, and take any other action necessary to help DOR in establishing paternity, and establishing, changing, or enforcing a child medical-support order. "Good Cause" is a legal term that means if you cooperated by giving us information about the absent parent, it would not be in the best interests of the child for any of the reasons listed in Part C—Good Cause—below. If you think that you have Good Cause for not cooperating, fill out Part C—Good Cause—below, and do not fill out Part D—Absent-Parent Information—on the next page.

If you do not want to make a Good Cause claim, and you do not cooperate by filling out Part D—Absent-Parent Information—on the next page, your MassHealth eligibility could be affected.

To get MassHealth **only for the child who is living with you** and not for yourself, you do not have to cooperate with DOR, assign your rights for medical support to MassHealth, or give information about the absent parent. Also, if a **pregnant** family member is applying for benefits for an unborn child, you do not need to give us information about the absent parent of the unborn child at this time. This means that you do not have to fill out Part B, C, D, or E of this supplement for that unborn child. Please read the next paragraph about child-support-enforcement services.

Even if you are applying for MassHealth only for the child who is living with you, you can ask for child-support-enforcement services if you want help getting the absent parent to pay for health insurance or child support for the child. To do this, you can call DOR at 1-800-332-2733, or go to www.mass.gov/dor and click on "Child Support Enforcement." The child's MassHealth coverage will not be affected if you choose to ask for these services or not. If you ask for these services, you will have to cooperate with DOR.

Part B: Names of children who have been adopted by a single parent or have a parent who is deceased or unknown

Please list the name(s) of the child or children who have been adopted by a single parent or have a parent who is deceased or unknown.

Name	Name
Name	Name

If all of the children in the household are named in this section, go to Part E. Otherwise, go to Part C.

Part C: Good Cause

Is there any reason (Good Cause) not to help us get medical support from an absent parent? yes no

If **yes**, list the name(s) of the child or children whose absent parent(s) you do not want to give us information about, and check one of the boxes below for the reason that applies to the child or children.

If **no**, fill out Part D—Absent-Parent Information—on the next page.

Names:

- Cooperation could result in serious physical or emotional harm to a family member or his or her child, or the applicant or member.
- Adoption of the child is in process.
- The child was a result of sexual abuse or assault.

Names:

- Cooperation could result in serious physical or emotional harm to a family member or his or her child, or the applicant or member.
- Adoption of the child is in process.
- The child was a result of sexual abuse or assault.

