



# **SENIOR GUIDE TO HEALTH CARE COVERAGE**

Commonwealth of Massachusetts | EOHHS

This guide is for seniors and for persons of any age  
needing long-term-care services

**MARCH 2022**

# **MassHealth Disability Accommodation Ombudsman**

MassHealth has an ombudsman to help members and applicants with disabilities get the accommodations they need. This office can also provide personal assistance by explaining MassHealth processes and requirements, and helping you fill out forms over the telephone. People who are deaf, hard of hearing, or speech disabled can call on VRS or by TTY. You can always get help in person at a MassHealth Enrollment Center (MEC).

MassHealth can provide personal assistance by telephone or email and can provide some publications in the following formats:

- large print;
- electronic; and
- braille.

## **MassHealth Disability Accommodation Ombudsman**

100 Hancock Street, 6th floor

Quincy, MA 02171

Phone: (617) 847-3468 TTY: (617) 847-3788

[ADAAccommodations@state.ma.us](mailto:ADAAccommodations@state.ma.us)

## **Attention Non U.S. Citizens!**

Important information you need to know about applying for MassHealth Limited and the Health Safety Net can be found on page 14.

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# INTRODUCTION

## **Senior Guide to Health Care Coverage:**

### **A guide for seniors and for persons of any age needing long-term-care services**

MassHealth, the Massachusetts Health Connector, and the Health Safety Net provide a wide range of medical and other benefits. These programs are authorized by state and federal law.

This Guide is for Massachusetts residents who are

- 65 years of age or older and living at home; or
- disabled and working 40 hours or more a month; or currently working and have worked at least 240 hours in the six months immediately before the month of application; or
- any age and are in or are waiting to go into a long-term-care facility; or
- eligible under certain programs to get long-term-care services to live at home; or
- applying for Health Connector plans.

This Guide may **not** be for you if you are

- a parent or a caretaker relative\* of children under 19 years of age; or

\* *A caretaker relative is an adult who is living with and related to the children under age 19, and who is the main caregiver of the children because neither parent of the children is in the home.*

- applying for certain disabled, immigrant children under 19 years of age who live in nursing homes or other long-term-care facilities.

Call us at (800) 841-2900, TTY: (800) 497-4648 to find out if another booklet, the Member Booklet, is for you.

Masshealth applications can be used to apply for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). SNAP is a federal program that helps you buy healthy food each month. If you want to also apply for SNAP, check the SNAP check box on the first page of the MassHealth application, read the rights and responsibilities and sign the application. You do not have to apply for the SNAP Program to be considered for MassHealth.

## **Please keep this guide.**

It has important information you may want to look up after you apply for MassHealth and while you are a MassHealth member. It gives general information about

- applying for MassHealth, Health Connector plans, or the Health Safety Net if you are a senior living at home,
- applying for MassHealth if you are in or are waiting to go into a long-term-care facility or need long-term-care services at home,
- eligibility rules,
- U.S. citizen/national status and identity verification requirements\*,

- immigration information for non-U.S. citizens (See Section 8 for information about immigration status and eligibility for benefits.),
- the MassHealth coverage types,
- some of the services and benefits available under each coverage type,
- how to get MassHealth services and benefits,
- when your coverage begins,
- how accident and estate recovery rules affect you as a MassHealth member,
- real estate liens,
- your rights and responsibilities, and
- where to get help.

\* *See Section 8 for a list of acceptable documents to prove U.S. citizenship/national status and identity.*

This guide is intended only as a handy reference and does not give complete information about the eligibility rules or benefits under MassHealth, Health Connector plans, and the Health Safety Net.

The information in this guide reflects income standards in effect on March 1, 2022; for the most updated information about assets and other figures that MassHealth uses to determine eligibility, go to [www.mass.gov/service-details/program-financial-guidelines-for-certain-masshealth-applicants-and-members](http://www.mass.gov/service-details/program-financial-guidelines-for-certain-masshealth-applicants-and-members).

**The information in this guide reflects income standards in effect on March 1, 2021; for the most updated information about assets and other figures that MassHealth uses to determine eligibility, go to [www.mass.gov/service-details/program-financial-guidelines-for-certain-masshealth-applicants-and-members](http://www.mass.gov/service-details/program-financial-guidelines-for-certain-masshealth-applicants-and-members).**

## **What U.S. citizens/nationals need to know about applying for MassHealth, the Health Safety Net, or Health Connector plans**

Verification of U.S. citizenship/national status and identity is required for all U.S. citizens/ nationals applying for MassHealth and Health Connector plans. Verification of identity is required for all individuals applying for the Health Safety Net. See Section 8 for more information about proof of U.S. citizenship/national status and identity.

If you need to provide a form of proof, the most common types of proof for both U.S. citizenship/national status and identity are a U.S. passport, a Certificate of U.S. Citizenship, a Certificate of U.S. Naturalization, or a document issued by a federally recognized American Indian tribe showing membership or enrollment in, or affiliation with, this tribe. U.S. citizenship/national status may also be proved with a U.S. public birth certificate or a Report of Birth Abroad of a U.S. Citizen. Identity may also be proved with a state driver's license containing the individual's photo, a government-issued identity card containing the individual's

photo, or a U.S. military ID card. For more detailed information about proving citizenship and identity, see Section 8. 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 us 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 household 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 Section 8 for complete information about acceptable forms of proof.)

For help getting forms of proof, like a Massachusetts birth record or information about how to get a birth record from another state, please call us at (800) 841-2900, TTY: (800) 497-4648.

## **What non-U.S. citizens need to know about applying for MassHealth or Health Connector plans**

To get the type of health care that gives the best coverage, satisfactory immigration status for each household member who is applying must be proved.

We will perform information matches with federal and state agencies to prove immigration status. If electronic data sources are not able to prove an individual's declared information, we will ask for additional documentation. We will send a Request for Information notice that will list all the required forms of proof and the deadline for submitting them. Immigration status information is in Section 8, or go to the MassHealth website at [www.mass.gov/masshealth](http://www.mass.gov/masshealth).

## **What non-U.S. citizens need to know about applying for MassHealth Limited and the Health Safety Net**

Non-U.S. citizens who are not eligible for a Social Security number (SSN) or do not have documentation of their immigration status may still qualify for MassHealth Limited or the Health Safety Net. However, they do have to give us

- proof of their income; and
- proof of identity to be eligible for the Health Safety Net.

Non-U.S. citizens do not have to submit their immigration documents with the application if they are applying only for their children, but are not applying for any health coverage for themselves.

If individuals do not have pay stubs or tax records, they can prove what their income is in other ways, like giving us a signed statement from their employer containing the gross (before taxes and deductions) pay and hours worked.

Applications and the information on them will be kept confidential. This means that

- names and addresses will not be sent to immigration enforcement officials; and
- we will not match information with other agencies if individuals do not have Social Security numbers.

## **What visitors need to know about applying**

Individuals who are not Massachusetts residents are not eligible for MassHealth or other health care benefits that are funded by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. If you are visiting Massachusetts for personal pleasure, such as for vacation, or for the purposes of receiving medical care in a setting other than a nursing facility, you do not meet residency requirements for MassHealth.

A list of free and low-cost legal services is available on the MassHealth website at [www.mass.gov/masshealth](http://www.mass.gov/masshealth). If you would like this list in print form, call us at (800) 841-2900, TTY: (800) 497-4648.





# **SECTION 1**

## **APPLYING FOR MASSHEALTH, THE MASSACHUSETTS HEALTH CONNECTOR, OR THE HEALTH SAFETY NET— FOR SENIORS LIVING AT HOME INCLUDING PERSONS OF ANY AGE WHO NEED LONG-TERM-CARE SERVICES WHILE LIVING AT HOME**

### **Information about MassHealth or the Health Safety Net for Seniors Living at Home**

This section gives general information about the MassHealth eligibility rules for persons who are 65 years of age or older, live at home, and generally do not need long-term-care services. It also gives information about how to apply for MassHealth or the Health Safety Net. If you are not eligible for MassHealth, you may be eligible for the Health Safety Net, which has different eligibility rules. For more information about the Health Safety Net, see Section 5 in this guide.

You may also qualify to buy a health or dental insurance plan through the Massachusetts Health Connector, if you meet the following requirements:

- you are a resident of Massachusetts,

- you are a U.S. citizen/national or are lawfully present in the United States, and
- you are not in prison.

Health coverage through the Massachusetts Health Connector is not MassHealth. If you have Medicare you will not be eligible for any cost sharing or tax credits, and you cannot purchase a health plan through the Health Connector unless you were enrolled in a Health Connector plan when you became eligible for Medicare. The only time you should apply for Health Connector programs if you have Medicare, is if you are not enrolled in Medicare yet but would have to pay for your Medicare Part A premiums. In this case, you may be eligible for a Health Connector Plan.

If you are in or are waiting to go into a long-term-care facility, read Section 2 of this guide, “Applying for MassHealth— for Persons in or Waiting to Go into a Long-Term-Care Facility.”

## **General Eligibility Rules**

To decide if you can get MassHealth, we look at your income and assets and, in some cases, your immigration status.

### **Residency**

You must be a resident of Massachusetts to get MassHealth or other health care benefits that are funded by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Unless otherwise specified in the MassHealth regulations, you are a resident of Massachusetts if you live in Massachusetts and either intend to reside in Massachusetts, with or without a fixed address

or have entered Massachusetts with a job commitment or seeking employment. This means you must actually live in Massachusetts and are not temporarily visiting the state.

If you are visiting Massachusetts for personal pleasure, such as for vacation, or for the purposes of receiving medical care in a setting other than a nursing facility, you do not meet residency requirements for MassHealth.

An individual's residency will be considered proven if the individual has self-declared to being a Massachusetts resident, and the residency has been confirmed by electronic data matching with federal or state agencies, or information services, or the individual has provided any of the following documents:

- A copy of the deed and record of the most recent mortgage payment (if the mortgage was paid in full, a copy of the property tax bill from the most recent year)
- A current utility bill or work order dated within the past 60 days
- A statement from a homeless shelter or homeless service provider
- School records (if school is private, additional documentation may be requested)
- Nursery school or day care records (if school is private, additional documentation may be requested)
- A Section 8 agreement
- A homeowners' insurance agreement
- Proof of enrollment of custodial dependent in public school

- A copy of the lease and record of the most recent rent payment
- If you cannot give us any of the documents listed above, you may submit an affidavit supporting residency and stating you are not visiting Massachusetts for personal pleasure (i.e. vacation) or for purposes of receiving medical care in a setting other than a nursing facility signed under the pains and penalties of perjury.

## **Social Security Numbers**

You must give us a social security number (SSN) or proof that one has been applied for for every household member who is applying, unless one of the following exceptions applies.

- You or any household member has a religious exemption as described in federal law.
- You or any household member is eligible only for a nonwork SSN.
- You or any household member is not eligible for an SSN. See Section 7, “How We Use Your Social Security Number,” for an explanation on our authority to use or disclose your SSN.

## **Income Rules**

MassHealth compares your monthly income to certain limits that are set by law. These limits are based on a percentage of the federal poverty level, and may increase each year. If you are married and live with your spouse, we count both of your incomes in deciding if you can get MassHealth.

To determine the amount of your income, we look at the amount of your social security, pension, and other nonwork-related income (before deduction of your Medicare premium, taxes, or other deductions).

If you have income from working, we allow certain deductions. (Generally, we count only about half of your monthly income from working before deductions.)

### **Income Rules—the Deductible**

If your income is too high to get MassHealth Standard\*, Family Assistance, or Limited, you will have a deductible. We can tell you how to get MassHealth by meeting your deductible.

\* *Also, see Section 3, “Special Income Eligibility Rules under MassHealth Standard—for Persons Aged 65 or Older Needing Personal-Care-Attendant Services to Live at Home.”*

The deductible is the total amount of your monthly income that is greater than MassHealth’s income limits over a six-month period.

To meet your deductible, you must have medical bills that equal or are greater than the amount of your deductible.

You may use medical bills for you and your spouse.

MassHealth will not pay for these medical bills—they are your responsibility. Also, the bills you use cannot be for services that are covered by other insurance that you or your spouse may have.

## **Modified Adjusted Gross Income (MAGI)**

For community applicants under 65 years of age, or for those individuals aged 65 or older who request a MAGI determination for Health Connector benefits, MAGI methodology is used to calculate income.

Financial eligibility is based on Modified Adjusted Gross Income (MAGI). MAGI is the income reported on line 22 on the personal 1040 income tax return after the deductions from lines 23-35 have been deducted. Then tax-exempt interest, foreign earned income exclusions, and tax-exempt social security are also added back in.

### **Countable Income—MAGI**

- MAGI is the income reported on line 7 on the personal 1040 income tax return after the income from line 22 of Schedule 1 has been added and the deductions from line 36 of Schedule 1 have been deducted. Then tax-exempt interest, foreign earned income exclusions, and tax-exempt social security income are also added back in.
- MAGI methodology includes earned income, such as wages, salary, tips, commissions, and bonuses.
- MAGI methodology does not count pre-tax contributions to salary reduction plans (of up to \$2,500 or \$5,000 depending on filing status) for payment of dependent care, transportation, and certain health expenses.
- Self-employment income is included in adjusted gross income, but the tax code allows deductions for various

business-related travel and entertainment expenses (up to a limit), and business use of a personal home. If the deductions exceed the income earned from self-employment, the losses can be used to offset other income.

- An amount received as a lump sum is counted as income only in the month received. Exception: for plans through the Health Connector, income received as a lump sum is countable for the year in which it is received.

## **Deductions – MAGI**

The following are allowable deductions from countable income when determining MAGI: educator expenses; certain business expenses of reservists, performing artists, or fee-based government officials; health savings account deduction; moving expenses for members of the Armed Forces; deductible part of self-employment taxes; contribution to self-employment SEP, SIMPLE, and qualified plans; self-employed health insurance deduction; penalty on early withdrawal of savings; alimony paid for a divorce, separation agreement, or court order that was finalized before January 1, 2019; Individual Retirement Account (IRA) deductions; student loan interest deduction.

For MAGI-determined individuals, we will perform information matches with other agencies and information sources when an application is submitted, at annual review, and periodically to update or prove eligibility.

These agencies and information sources may include, but are not limited to the following agencies: Federal Data

Services Hub; Department of Unemployment Assistance; the Bureau of Vital Statistics in the Department of Public Health; Department of Industrial Accidents; Department of Veterans' Services; Department of Revenue; Bureau of Special Investigations; Social Security Administration; Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements; Department of Transitional Assistance; health-insurance carriers; and banks and other financial institutions.

Income information will be obtained through an electronic data match. Income is considered proved if the income data received through an electronic data match is reasonably compatible with the income amount you stated on your application. If we are unable to verify your income electronically, we will request proof of your income.

In order to get any benefits you are entitled to as quickly as possible, you may send us any documentation you have that verifies all household income.

### **General Asset Rules**

MassHealth looks at the current value of any assets owned by you and compares them to the asset limits. For the most updated information about assets and other figures that MassHealth uses to determine eligibility go to [www.mass.gov/service-details/program-financial-guidelines-for-certain-masshealth-applicants-and-members](http://www.mass.gov/service-details/program-financial-guidelines-for-certain-masshealth-applicants-and-members). If you are married and live with your spouse, we count the value of assets owned by you and your spouse.



## Countable Assets

Countable assets include, but are not limited to, the value of bank accounts\*, certificates of deposit, mutual funds, stocks and bonds, and the value of real property, except your home, if it meets eligibility requirements.

- \* *Under Chapter 125 of the Acts of 2008: An Act Relative to Exempting Seniors from Certain Bank Fees, financial institutions cannot charge seniors for copies of bank or other financial records if MassHealth is asking for the information.*

## Noncountable Assets

Noncountable assets include:

- the home you live in if it is located in Massachusetts, unless you are getting long-term-care services in a long-term-care facility (see Section 2 of this guide).

**Note:** Although we do not count the value of your home, we may claim money from your estate after your death. For more information about estate recovery, see page 99.

- one vehicle for each household
- life insurance policies for both you and your spouse if the total face value for each of you is \$1,500 or less (Face value of term policies is not counted.)
- burial plots
- up to \$1,500 per person for you and your spouse that is specifically set aside for funeral and burial expenses. This amount

- » must be in separate, identifiable accounts; or
- » may be in the form of life insurance policies specifically set up for funeral and burial expenses if the total face value for each of you is \$1,500 or less.
- an irrevocable burial trust or prepaid irrevocable burial contract set up in reasonable amounts for future payment of funeral or burial expenses

## **Information about Programs for Persons Living at Home Who Need Long- Term-Care Services**

People living at home (children as well as adults) who need more help than family members can give, may be able to get certain long-term-care services to help them live at home, instead of in a long-term- care facility. MassHealth has three types of programs that allow certain MassHealth Standard members to get these needed long-term-care services at home:

- Home- and Community-Based Services (HCBS) Waiver programs;
- Kaileigh Mulligan Program (Home Care for Disabled Children); and
- PACE (Program of All-inclusive Care for the Elderly).

Each program has its own eligibility rules (including income and asset rules).

Waiver applicants and members must have income less than or equal to 300% of the federal benefit rate

When determining eligibility for these waivers, MassHealth counts the assets of both the applicant and their spouse, but counts the income of only the waiver applicant.

For more detailed information about how we look at countable assets, see “Asset Rules for People Who Are in or Are Waiting to Go into a Long-Term-Care Facility and People Living at Home Needing Long-Term-Care Services” on page 48 of this booklet.

## **Home- and Community-Based Waivers**

MassHealth works with other state agencies to administer the Home- and Community-Based (HCBS) Services Waivers. These are MassHealth programs that provide access to long-term services and supports to help eligible seniors and individuals with disabilities live in the community. Participants in the HCBS waiver programs have access to traditional MassHealth services and services available through the HCBS waiver in which they are enrolled. There are ten different MassHealth HCBS waivers in Massachusetts.

To be a participant in any of the HCBS waivers you must be eligible for MassHealth Standard and meet certain requirements. The types of requirements are “clinical eligibility” and “financial eligibility.”

Clinical eligibility is determined by an assessment of your medical situation and needs. Please contact the agency conducting the clinical assessment for more information about the process.

Waiver applicants and members must have countable income less than or equal to 300% of the federal benefit rate.

When determining financial eligibility for these waivers, MassHealth counts the assets of both the waiver applicant and their spouse, but counts the income of only the waiver applicant.

**Note:** For the Kaileigh Mulligan program, financial eligibility is determined without counting parental income and assets.

Eligible individuals may enroll in only one HCBS waiver at a time. Waiver participants are not permitted to enroll in Program of All-inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE), One Care, or Senior Care Options (SCO) while enrolled in an HCBS waiver. The exception is that a participant who is age 65 or older and enrolled in the Frail Elder waiver, described below, may enroll in SCO.

# **Home- and Community-Based Services Waiver for Frail Elders**

## **What it is and who it helps**

- Allows certain people from 60 through 64 years of age who are totally and permanently disabled, or 65 years of age and older regardless of disability, to live at home and get specified waiver services (like homemaker, nonmedical transportation, and home-delivered meals).
- Waiver participants may also receive services covered under MassHealth Standard.
- Requires that the member has clinical level of care needs equal to that provided in a nursing facility, based on a waiver clinical assessment conducted by an Aging Services Access Point (ASAP) nurse.

## **How and where to apply**

To apply for the Frail Elder Waiver, contact your local Aging Services Access Point (ASAP) agency by calling (800) AGE-INFO, TTY: MassRelay 711.

# **Home- and Community-Based Services Waiver for Persons with Traumatic Brain Injury**

## **What it is and who it helps**

- Allows certain people, from 18 through 64 years of age, who are totally and permanently disabled or 65 years of age and older regardless of disability, who have a traumatic brain injury as defined by the Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission to receive specified waiver services in the home or community.
- Waiver participants also receive services covered under MassHealth Standard.
- Requires that the member has clinical level of care needs equal to that provided in a nursing facility or hospital, based on a waiver clinical assessment conducted by the Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission.

## **How and where to apply**

Generally, referrals are made by Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission case managers. Call us at (800) 841-2900, TTY: (800) 497-4648 for a Senior Application, and for more information about this program.

# **Home- and Community-Based Services Waivers for Persons with Acquired Brain Injury (ABI)**

## **What it is and who it helps**

- Allows certain people from 22 through 64 years of age who are totally and permanently disabled or 65 years of age and older regardless of disability, who have acquired, after reaching the age of 22, a brain injury including, without limitation, brain injuries caused by external force, but not including Alzheimer's disease and similar neuro-degenerative diseases, the primary manifestation of which is dementia.
- To qualify for the ABI waiver, an individual must have been an inpatient in a nursing facility or chronic disease or rehabilitation hospital with a continuous length of stay of 90 or more days.
- Waiver services may be provided in a residential habilitation setting or in the home or community. Waiver participants also receive services covered under MassHealth Standard.
- Requires that the member has clinical level of care needs equal to that provided in a nursing facility or hospital, based on a waiver clinical assessment conducted by the Waiver Unit at the University of Massachusetts Medical School.

## **How and where to apply**

To apply for the Home- and Community-Based Services Waivers for Persons with Acquired Brain Injury, contact the Waiver Unit at the University of Massachusetts Medical School at (866) 281-5602, TTY: (800) 596-1746.

## **Moving Forward Plan (MFP) Home- and Community-Based Services Waivers**

### **What it is and who it helps**

- Allows certain people from 18 through 64 years of age who are totally and permanently disabled, or 65 years of age and older regardless of disability, who are an inpatient in a nursing facility, chronic disease, rehabilitation, or psychiatric hospital to receive support services and other specified waiver services.
- To qualify for the MFP waivers, the individual must have been an inpatient in a nursing facility, chronic disease, rehabilitation, or psychiatric hospital with a continuous length of stay of 90 or more days.
- Waiver services may be provided in a 24 hour a day/7 day a week residential habilitation setting or in the participant's home in the community. Waiver participants also receive services covered under MassHealth Standard.
- Requires that the member has clinical level of care needs equal to that provided in a nursing facility or hospital, based on a waiver clinical assessment conducted by the Waiver Unit at the University of Massachusetts Medical School.



## **How and where to apply**

To apply for the MFP Home- and Community-Based Services Waivers, contact the Waiver Unit at the University of Massachusetts Medical School at (855) 499-5109, TTY: (800) 596-1746.

## **Home- and Community-Based Services Waiver for Adults with an Intellectual Disability**

### **What it is and who it helps**

- There are three waiver programs that allow individuals with an intellectual disability from 22 through 64 years of age who are totally and permanently disabled, or who are 65 years of age and older regardless of disability, who have an intermediate-care facility for the intellectually disabled (ICF-ID) level of care to receive support services and other specified waiver services.
- Waiver services may be provided in a residential habilitation setting or in the home or community. Waiver participants also receive services covered under MassHealth Standard.
- Requires that the member has clinical level of care needs equal to that provided in an intermediate care facility for the intellectually disabled, based on a waiver clinical assessment conducted by the Department of Developmental Services.

## **How and where to apply**

Generally, referrals are made by case managers from the Department of Developmental Services. Call us at (800) 841-2900, TTY: (800) 497-4648 for a Senior Application, and for more information about this program.

## **Kaileigh Mulligan Program (Home Care for Disabled Children)**

### **What it is and who it helps**

- Allows certain severely disabled children (under 18 years of age) to live at home with their parent(s) and have MassHealth eligibility determined without counting the income and assets of their parent(s)
- Requires that the child's medical needs be severe enough to need a level of care equal to that provided in a hospital or pediatric nursing facility, as determined by MassHealth's Disability Evaluation Service
- Covers payment for a wide range of medical and nursing care, and certain medical equipment and supplies for the child
- Requires that the cost to MassHealth for these services be not greater than what it would cost for the child to live in a hospital setting or nursing facility
- Sets up a link between the child's family and the Department of Public Health's case management services to follow the child's care

## **How and where to apply**

Generally, referrals are made by Department of Public Health case managers or by the child's hospital social worker who can give you an Application for Health Coverage for Seniors and People Needing Long-Term-Care Services (Senior Application) and help you apply for this program. Call us at (800) 841-2900, TTY: (800) 497-4648 for a Senior Application, and for more information about this program.

## **PACE (Program of All-inclusive Care for the Elderly)**

### **What it is and who it helps**

PACE is a program that provides enrolled members access to all services covered by Medicare and MassHealth and offers more services based on a member's needs, through a center-based model. PACE provides all necessary medical and social services to people so that members can live safely in their community instead of in a nursing home.

There are no copays for members enrolled in PACE.

If you are interested in finding out more about the steps to enroll in PACE, you can reach out to a PACE plan that serves the area you live in or call the number below.

To determine if someone is eligible to enroll in PACE, a team of health professionals from a PACE organization meets with an applicant to complete an assessment of the applicant's health status. The PACE organization then

submits the clinical assessment along with an application to MassHealth. If MassHealth determines that the applicant meets PACE clinical and financial requirements, the applicant can decide to enroll in PACE.

PACE is for people who:

- are 55 years of age or older,
- live in the service area of a PACE organization,
- are able to live safely in the community,
- are certified by the state as eligible for nursing home care,
- agree to receive health services exclusively through the PACE organization, and
- have countable income less than or equal to 300% of the federal benefit rate.

When determining financial eligibility for PACE, MassHealth counts the income and assets of only the applicant regardless of their marital status. For the most updated information about assets and other figures that MassHealth uses to determine eligibility, go to [www.mass.gov/service-details/program-financial-guidelines-for-certain-masshealth-applicants-and-members](http://www.mass.gov/service-details/program-financial-guidelines-for-certain-masshealth-applicants-and-members).

Once enrolled in PACE, every PACE member is assigned a care team including doctors, nurses, therapists, and other medical and social service providers. A plan of care is developed with the member and the member's care team. The PACE organization coordinates and arranges for all necessary services. Most routine services are provided in

a PACE center, but certain services may be given in the participant's home or other facility.

Covered services include: meal delivery, transportation, adult day health, social services, prescriptions\*, hospitalizations, and, if necessary, nursing facility placement.

PACE provides a PACE case manager to coordinate the participant's care.

*\* PACE provides your Medicare prescription drug coverage.*

## **How and where to apply**

MassHealth applicants and members may apply for PACE. Call MassOptions at (888) 885-0484 for a Senior Application, and for more information about this program.

## **Managed Care**

If you are age 65 or older or in a long-term-care facility, you are not required to enroll in a managed care organization (MCO) plan, a Primary Care Clinician (PCC) plan, or an Accountable Care Organization (ACO). You receive your MassHealth benefits on a fee-for-service basis by using MassHealth providers, unless you choose to enroll in Senior Care Options (SCO) or PACE.

Members under the age of 65 in the HCBS waivers programs may choose, but are not required, to enroll in an MCO plan, a PCC plan, or an ACO if you are not covered by other comprehensive health insurance, including Medicare.

A health plan is a group of providers, hospitals, and other professionals who work together to help meet your health care needs. If you enroll in an MCO plan, you will have a 90-day Plan Selection period, when you can change your plan for any reason, followed by a Fixed Enrollment period, when you can only change plans if you meet a certain reason.

If you would like more information about MCO plans or PCC plans, please review the MassHealth Enrollment Guide. To get a copy

- Visit our website at [www.mass.gov/masshealth](http://www.mass.gov/masshealth), or
- Call us at (800) 841-2900, TTY: (800) 497-4648

## **Applying for MassHealth or the Health Safety Net**

### **How to apply**

1. Fill out the Senior Application.

**Note:** If you are applying for MassHealth through the Kaileigh Mulligan or PACE, you do not have to fill out the Long-Term-Care Supplement. If you are applying for MassHealth through the Home- and Community-Based Services Waiver, you only need to fill out the “Resource Transfers” section of Supplement A: Long-Term-Care in the Senior Application.

2. Send us the filled-out and signed application with proof of

- » your monthly income before taxes and deductions (like a copy of your pension stub or award letter). You do not need to send us proof of your social security or SSI income. If employed, send proof of your monthly employment income before taxes and deductions, such as two recent pay stubs or a U.S. tax return. If self-employed, send a U.S. tax return, or if no U.S. tax return has been filed, you may submit a Profit and Loss Statement for the last 12 months signed by an accountant (or you, if no accountant was used). Current business records showing other relevant documents may be submitted as acceptable proof of self-employment;
- » the current value of your assets (like copies of your current bank statements\*); and
- » your U.S. citizenship/national or immigration status and identity. (See Section 8 for complete information about acceptable forms of proof and for information about immigration status and eligibility for benefits.)

\* *Under Chapter 125 of the Acts of 2008: An Act Relative to Exempting Seniors from Certain Bank Fees, financial institutions cannot charge seniors for copies of bank or other financial records if MassHealth is asking for the information.*

For MAGI-determined individuals, we will perform information matches with other agencies and information sources when an application is submitted, at annual review, and periodically to update or prove eligibility.

These agencies and information sources may include, but are not limited to the following agencies: Federal Data Services Hub; Department of Unemployment Assistance; the Bureau of Vital Statistics in the Department of Public Health; Department of Industrial Accidents; Department of Veterans' Services; Department of Revenue; Bureau of Special Investigations; Social Security Administration; Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements; Department of Transitional Assistance; health-insurance carriers; and banks and other financial institutions. Note that information about persons listed on your application may be shared with the Department of Unemployment Assistance and such persons' employers as necessary to administer the Employer Medical Assistance Contribution (EMAC) requirements of MGL c 149 s 189A.

Income information will be obtained through an electronic data match. Income is considered proved if the income data received through an electronic data match is reasonably compatible with the income amount you stated on your application. If we are unable to verify your income electronically, we will request proof of your income.

3. After you have filled out the Senior Application and any needed supplements, send your application by

**mail or fax to:**

MassHealth Enrollment Center

PO Box 290794

Charlestown, MA 02129-0214

fax: (617) 887-8799



**or hand deliver to:**

MassHealth Enrollment Center  
The Schrafft Center  
529 Main Street, Suite 1M  
Charlestown, MA 02129

4. To apply in person or to schedule an appointment to speak to a MassHealth representative please visit [www.mass.gov/masshealth/appointment](http://www.mass.gov/masshealth/appointment). The following enrollment centers listed below are open Monday through Friday from 8:45 a.m. to 5 p.m. Do not send an application to any of these enrollment centers.

MassHealth Enrollment Center  
88 Industry Avenue, Suite D  
Springfield, MA 01104

MassHealth Enrollment Center  
21 Spring Street, Suite 4  
Taunton, MA 02780

MassHealth Enrollment Center  
367 East Street  
Tewksbury, MA 01876

MassHealth Enrollment Center  
100 Hancock Street  
Quincy, MA 02171

## **Where to call**

Call us at (800) 841-2900, TTY: (800) 497-4648 if you need

- a Senior Application;
- a Senior Guide to Health Care Coverage in another language;
- interpreter services;
- help filling out the Senior Application; or
- help with questions about the application process.

# **SECTION 2**

## **APPLYING FOR MASSHEALTH – FOR PERSONS IN OR WAITING TO GO INTO A LONG-TERM-CARE FACILITY**

### **Long-Term-Care Information**

This section gives general information about the special eligibility rules for persons who are in or are waiting to go into a long-term-care facility. If you meet these special rules, MassHealth may be able to pay for your care in a long-term-care facility. Section 2 also gives information about how to apply for MassHealth.

A long-term-care facility is a type of medical institution that includes

- licensed nursing facilities;
- chronic disease and rehabilitation hospitals;
- state hospitals and state schools specifically designated as long-term-care facilities; and
- intermediate-care facilities for the intellectually disabled.

Long-term-care services are the types of services needed if you are frequently ill and/or permanently disabled and need help, or cannot take care of yourself. These include medical and personal care services. Generally, people get long-term-care services while they are in a long-term-care facility.

To be eligible for payment of long-term-care services in a long-term-care facility, you must

- be eligible for MassHealth Standard as a person who is
  - » 65 years of age or older;
  - » 21 through 64 years of age and disabled according to the Social Security Administration's disability rules, or pregnant; or
  - » under 21 years of age;
- be determined by MassHealth as medically needing long-term-care services; and
- prove that you (and your spouse) meet certain income and asset rules.

## **General Long-Term-Care Eligibility Rules**

To decide if you can get MassHealth, we look at your income and assets and, in some cases, your immigration status.

### **Residency**

You must be a resident of Massachusetts to get MassHealth or other health care benefits that are funded by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Unless otherwise specified in the MassHealth regulations, you are a resident of Massachusetts if you live in Massachusetts and either intend to reside in Massachusetts, with or without a fixed address or have entered Massachusetts with a job commitment or seeking employment. This means you must actually live in Massachusetts and are not temporarily visiting the state.

If you are visiting Massachusetts for personal pleasure, such as for vacation, or for the purposes of receiving medical care in a setting other than a nursing facility, you do not meet residency requirements for MassHealth.

An individual's residency will be considered proven if the individual has self-declared to being a Massachusetts resident, and the residency has been confirmed by electronic data matching with federal or state agencies, or information services, or the individual has provided any of the following documents:

- A copy of the deed and record of the most recent mortgage payment (if the mortgage was paid in full, a copy of the property tax bill from the most recent year)
- A current utility bill or work order dated within the past 60 days
- A statement from a homeless shelter or homeless service provider
- School records (if school is private, additional documentation may be requested)
- Nursery school or day care records (if school is private, additional documentation may be requested)
- A Section 8 agreement
- A homeowners' insurance agreement
- Proof of enrollment of custodial dependent in public school
- A copy of the lease AND record of the most recent rent payment

- If you cannot give us any of the documents listed above, you may submit an affidavit supporting residency and stating you are not visiting Massachusetts for personal pleasure (i.e. vacation) or for purposes of receiving medical care in a setting other than a nursing facility signed under the pains and penalties of perjury.

## **Social Security Numbers**

You must give us a social security number (SSN) or proof that one has been applied for for every household member who is applying, unless one of the following exceptions applies.

- You or any household member has a religious exemption as described in federal law.
- You or any household member is eligible only for a nonwork SSN.
- You or any household member is not eligible for an SSN. See Section 7, “How We Use Your Social Security Number,” for an explanation on our authority to use or disclose your SSN.

## **General Asset Rules**

MassHealth looks at the current value of any assets owned by you and compares them to the asset limits. For the most updated information about assets and other figures that MassHealth uses to determine eligibility go to [www.mass.gov/service-details/program-financial-guidelines-for-certain-masshealth-applicants-and-members](http://www.mass.gov/service-details/program-financial-guidelines-for-certain-masshealth-applicants-and-members). If you are

married and live with your spouse, we count the value of assets owned by you and your spouse.

## **Countable Assets**

Countable assets include, but are not limited to, the value of bank accounts, certificates of deposit, mutual funds, stocks and bonds, and the value of real property, except your home, if it meets eligibility requirements.

## **Noncountable Assets**

Noncountable assets include

- the home you live in if it is located in Massachusetts and meets other eligibility requirements. If you move out of your home to live in a long-term-care facility or other medical institution, other rules may apply. See “How We Count Assets and the Home” on page 48.
- one vehicle for each household
- life insurance policies for both you and your spouse if the total face value for each of you is \$1,500 or less (Face value of term policies is not counted.)
- burial plots
- up to \$1,500 per person for you and your spouse that is specifically set aside for funeral and burial expenses. This amount must be in separate, identifiable accounts, or may be in the form of life-insurance policies specifically set up for funeral and burial expenses if the total face value for each of you is \$1,500 or less

- an irrevocable burial trust or prepaid irrevocable burial contract set up in reasonable amounts for future payment of funeral or burial expenses

## **Asset Rules for People Who Are in or Are Waiting to Go into a Long-Term-Care Facility and People Living at Home Needing Long-Term-Care Services**

### **Amount You and Your Spouse Can Keep**

- You may keep \$2,000.
- Your spouse at home may keep up to a certain amount, which changes every January. This amount may also be increased as a result of an appeal. (See the MassHealth regulations at 130 CMR 520.000.) MassHealth must follow special rules when determining how much the spouse at home may keep.

**Note:** Your spouse at home has the right to ask for a fair hearing to determine if he or she can keep more of your combined assets.

### **How We Count Assets and the Home**

If the equity interest in your home is over the allowable limit, you may be ineligible for payment of long-term-care services, unless one of the following relatives is living in your home:

- your spouse;
- a permanently and totally disabled child;
- a blind child; or



- a child under 21 years of age.

In certain cases, MassHealth may waive this requirement if undue hardship exists. For the most updated information about assets and other figures MassHealth uses to determine eligibility go to [www.mass.gov/service-details/program-financial-guidelines-for-certain-masshealth-applicants-and-members](http://www.mass.gov/service-details/program-financial-guidelines-for-certain-masshealth-applicants-and-members).

If you move out of your home to live in a medical institution, MassHealth decides if your former home is a countable asset because it is no longer your principal place of residence.

Your home is not countable if you have moved to a medical institution and

- your spouse lives in your home or certain other relatives who meet specific rules live in your home;
- you intend to return home; or
- you have long-term-care insurance that meets certain requirements.

If none of the above three situations applies to you, the value of your home may be counted, but you will be allowed nine months to sell the property (in certain cases, you will be allowed even more time).

**Note:** Although we may not count the value of your home, we may claim money from your estate after your death, or from the sale of your home while you are in a long-term-care facility. For more information about real estate liens and estate recovery, see below and page 99.

## **How We Count Transfers of Income, Assets, and the Home**

If you or your spouse gave away or transferred assets or income for less than what they were worth, MassHealth may not be able to pay for your nursing facility services (or for services equal to those provided in a nursing facility) for a certain period of time. MassHealth reviews all transfers, including transfers into and out of trusts, that were made during the period of time up to 60 months before the date you applied for MassHealth, or before the date you or your spouse entered a medical institution, whichever is later.

The transfer rules apply to

- people living at home who are applying for or getting MassHealth on the basis of the Home- and Community-Based Services Waiver;
- people applying for or getting MassHealth who are living in a medical institution; and
- any assets, including your home, or income in which you or your spouse have a legal interest and that are transferred to anyone other than your spouse and certain others. However, you may transfer your home under certain conditions according to MassHealth rules.

If you got MassHealth and you transferred property for less than what it was worth, MassHealth may take legal action to set aside the transfer. (This means that a court may determine that you still legally own the property.) For more information about estate recovery, see page 99.

*See the MassHealth regulations at 130 CMR 520.000 for more information.*

## **Liens on Property, Including the Home**

MassHealth will place a real estate lien on any property in which you have a legal interest, unless the property is your former home and one of the following relatives is living in the property:

- your spouse;
- a sibling with a legal interest who has lived there for at least one year immediately before you went into a long-term-care facility;
- a permanently and totally disabled child;
- a blind child; or
- a child under 21 years of age.

A lien is placed only after MassHealth decides that it is not likely that you will return home from the long-term-care facility, and sends a notice that it intends to place a lien. If you are discharged from the facility and return home, MassHealth will remove its lien. If you sell the property during your lifetime, MassHealth has the right to get back from your share of the proceeds any money it paid for all services you got from MassHealth on or after April 1, 1995. MassHealth will count any remaining proceeds when deciding if you can still remain eligible for MassHealth.

In certain cases, MassHealth may decide not to use its lien during a person's lifetime to get paid back for long-term-care services. For information about recovery and long-term-care insurance, see pages 99-100.

*See the MassHealth regulations at 130 CMR 515.000 for more information.*

## **The Patient-Paid Amount**

You may have to make a monthly payment to the long-term care facility. This is called your patient-paid amount. (Your spouse living at home does not have to contribute any of their income toward the cost of your care.) Your patient-paid amount is determined using the following income deductions.

### **A personal needs allowance**

The amount (set by state and federal law, in most cases \$72.80 a month) that you are allowed to keep for personal expenses, like clothing, haircuts, and activities.

### **A spousal maintenance needs allowance**

A deduction, based on financial need, for the living expenses of your spouse who is living at home. The minimum allowance changes every July, and the maximum allowance changes every January, and can vary if your spouse has extra shelter expenses. (See the MassHealth regulations at 130 CMR 520.000.) The maximum amount can be higher as a result of an appeal or a court order.

### **A family maintenance needs allowance**

A deduction for the living expenses of certain family members who live with your spouse at home.

## **A home maintenance allowance**

A deduction for your home expenses if you are single and a medical decision has been made that you are expected to return home within six months. The current monthly allowance is \$1,133. (This amount is in effect as of March 1, 2022.)

## **A medical expense allowance**

A deduction for health insurance premiums and certain other incurred medical expenses (including allowable guardianship fees) not payable by any insurer.

## **Applying for MassHealth**

### **How to apply**

1. Fill out the Senior Application including the Long-Term-Care Supplement.
2. Send us the filled-out and signed application and the Long-Term-Care Supplement with proof of
  - » your monthly income before taxes and deductions (like a copy of your pension stub or award letter). You do not need to send us proof of your social security or SSI income. If employed, send proof of your monthly employment income before taxes and deductions, such as two recent pay stubs or a U.S. tax return. If self-employed, send a U.S. tax return, or if no U.S. tax return has been filed, you may submit a Profit

and Loss Statement for the last 12 months signed by an accountant (or you, if no accountant was used). Current business records showing other relevant documents may be submitted as acceptable proof of self-employment;

- » the current value of your assets (like copies of your current bank statements\*); and
- » your U.S. citizenship/national status and identity. (See Section 8 for complete information about acceptable forms of proof and for information about immigration status and eligibility for benefits.)

\* *Under Chapter 125 of the Acts of 2008: An Act Relative to Exempting Seniors from Certain Bank Fees, financial institutions cannot charge seniors for copies of bank or other financial records if MassHealth is asking for the information.*

We will perform information matches with other agencies and information sources when an application is submitted, at annual review, and periodically to update or prove eligibility.

These agencies and information sources may include, but are not limited to the following agencies: Federal Data Services Hub; Department of Unemployment Assistance; the Bureau of Vital Statistics in the Department of Public Health; Department of Industrial Accidents; Department of Veterans' Services; Department of Revenue; Bureau of Special Investigations; Social Security Administration; Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements; Department

of Transitional Assistance; health-insurance carriers; and banks and other financial institutions. Note that information about persons listed on your application may be shared with the Department of Unemployment Assistance and such persons' employers as necessary to administer the Employer Medical Assistance Contribution (EMAC) requirements of MGL c 149 s 189A.

3. After you have filled out the Senior Application and any needed supplements, send your application by

**mail or fax to:**

MassHealth Enrollment Center

PO Box 290794

Charlestown, MA 02129-0214

fax: (617) 887-8799

**or hand deliver to:**

MassHealth Enrollment Center

The Schrafft Center

529 Main Street, Suite 1M

Charlestown, MA 02129.

**Where to call**

Call us at (800) 841-2900, TTY: (800) 497-4648 if you need

- a Senior Application;
- a Senior Guide to Health Care Coverage in another language;
- interpreter services;

- help filling out the Senior Application; or
- help with any questions about the application process.



## **SECTION 3**

### **SPECIAL INCOME ELIGIBILITY RULES UNDER MASSHEALTH STANDARD—FOR PERSONS 65 YEARS OF AGE OR OLDER NEEDING PERSONAL-CARE-ATTENDANT SERVICES TO LIVE AT HOME\***

- \* *Section 3 applies only to persons with income over 100% of the federal poverty level (see chart on the inside back cover). Persons of any age with income at or below 100% of the federal poverty level do not need to meet these special income eligibility rules to get MassHealth or to get personal-care-attendant (PCA) services paid for by MassHealth.*

### **How does my need for MassHealth personal-care-attendant (PCA) services affect the way MassHealth decides if I can get MassHealth?**

If, according to the chart on the inside back cover, we decide that your income is over 100% of the federal poverty level and you are 65 years of age or older, we may be able to count less of your nonworking income when deciding if you can get MassHealth. Special MassHealth eligibility rules would then apply, which are explained below.

## **What does MassHealth mean by PCA services?**

The types of services offered by the MassHealth PCA Program under MassHealth Standard may help you if you are elderly and have a permanent or long-lasting disability that keeps you from being able to do your daily living activities, like bathing, grooming, eating, getting dressed, toileting, moving around, taking your medicines, etc., unless someone physically helps you. By getting PCA services, some people can live at home instead of having to live in a long-term-care facility.

*For more information, see MassHealth PCA regulations at 130 CMR 422.000.*

## **Who can get MassHealth PCA services?**

Not everyone can get MassHealth PCA services. To get PCA services, you must

- have a permanent or long-lasting disability;
- need someone to physically help you with your daily living activities, like those listed above, which you cannot do by yourself;
- have a doctor's written authorization that you need PCA services; and
- get prior authorization from MassHealth.

## **How do I tell MassHealth that I am now getting or think I need PCA services?**

If you are now getting or you think you may need PCA services because of your disability, you may tell us when you fill out a Senior Application (if you are applying for MassHealth). The application has a separate PCA section with three questions about your need for PCA services, as explained below.

- You must answer the first question in the PCA section.
- If you are now getting MassHealth PCA services, and want to continue getting MassHealth PCA services, answer only question 1 in the PCA section. MassHealth will send you a notice telling you about our decision.
- If you think you need PCA services, you must also answer questions 2 and 3 in the PCA section. If you answer “YES” to questions 2 and 3, you must also fill out Supplement C: Personal Care Attendant. The PCA Supplement is enclosed with the Senior Application and the renewal form.

If you are an existing MassHealth member, the PCA Supplement can be completed as a free-standing form, which can be found at [www.mass.gov/files/documents/2018/11/20/pca-supp.pdf](http://www.mass.gov/files/documents/2018/11/20/pca-supp.pdf).

## What happens next?

We will review your statement of need for PCA services and your filled-out PCA Supplement so we can decide if you may need any PCA services. We will send you a notice telling you about our decision.

## What must I do if MassHealth agrees that I may need PCA services?

If we decide that you need PCA services, and we count less of your income, and we decide you can get MassHealth,

- you must contact a MassHealth personal care management (PCM) agency to set up PCA services within 90 days of the date we decide you can get MassHealth. To get a list of MassHealth PCM agencies, call us at (800) 841-2900, TTY: (800) 497-4648; and
- we will tell you if you need to give us proof that you have contacted a MassHealth PCM agency.

**Important:** When the PCM agency you have chosen accepts you for PCA services, you will become the employer of your own PCA. This means that you are responsible to find, hire, train, and fire (if needed) your own PCA. You will also have to follow special rules to make sure your PCA gets paid on time. The PCM agency can tell you how to get help with these duties. MassHealth may not pay certain members of your family to be your PCA.

To find out more about the MassHealth Personal Care Attendant Program, call us at (800) 841-2900, TTY: (800) 497-4648.

For the most up-to-date eligibility figures, go to [www.mass.gov/service-details/eligibility-figures-tables-for-masshealth-applicants-and-members](http://www.mass.gov/service-details/eligibility-figures-tables-for-masshealth-applicants-and-members).

# **SECTION 4**

## **MASSACHUSETTS HEALTH CONNECTOR**

The Massachusetts Health Connector (Health Connector) provides access to health and dental insurance plans for individuals, families, and small businesses.

Health coverage through the Massachusetts Health Connector is not the same as MassHealth. If you are eligible for Medicare you will not be able to get a ConnectorCare plan or tax credit to help lower the cost of your health insurance. You will only be eligible for a Health Connector dental plan without any financial help. The only exception to this is if you are eligible for a Medicare Part A plan that has a premium, but you have not enrolled in it yet. In this case, you may still qualify for health coverage and for help paying for health coverage through the Health Connector.

Generally, you can qualify to buy a health and/or dental insurance plan through the Health Connector if you meet the following requirements:

- you are a resident of Massachusetts,
- you are a U.S. citizen/national, or are lawfully present in the United States, and
- you are not in prison.

You have the option of choosing to buy a health coverage plan through the Health Connector if you are 65 years of age or older. You may be eligible for a tax credit to lower your monthly premiums, or ConnectorCare plans, which have low premiums and low out-of-pocket costs. See the “Advance Premium Tax Credits” section below for more details.

If you are not eligible for a tax credit or ConnectorCare plan, and you want health coverage through the Health Connector, you will be responsible for the full cost of the plan.

## **Health Connector Plans**

All of the health plans offered provide full health benefits, including visits to the doctor or hospital, and prescriptions. The Health Connector’s plans are described below using metallic terms to make it easier for you to compare them.

- Platinum plans have the highest premium, but the lowest copays and deductibles.
- Gold and Silver plans have lower premiums, but higher copays and deductibles.
- Bronze plans have the lowest premiums, but the highest copays and deductibles.

Each health plan also has different doctors, hospitals, and other providers in its networks.

## **Advance Premium Tax Credits**

Advance Premium Tax Credits are a way to lower the cost of your insurance premiums. The amount of your tax credit depends on your household size, income, and the cost of health plans available to you. You can find out whether you qualify for a tax credit, and how much the credit will be after submitting an application.

If you qualify for Advance Premium Tax Credits, you can choose to get this credit at the end of the year when you file your taxes. Or, you can use it on a monthly basis toward your insurance premiums. The tax credit will be sent directly to your insurance company so that you pay less each month.

## **ConnectorCare plans**

In addition to Advance Premium Tax Credits from the federal government, you may also be able to get help paying for health insurance from Massachusetts through a ConnectorCare health insurance plan. ConnectorCare plans are a set of health insurance plans with lower monthly premiums and lower out-of-pocket costs.

## **Special cost sharing for American Indians and Alaska Natives**

American Indians and Alaska Natives may be able to get additional help paying for care. If you are an American



Indian and you get services directly from an Indian Health Service Center, a tribal or urban Indian organization, or through the Contract Health Service program, you will not have to pay any out-of-pocket costs at the time you get care. You will also be able to enroll in or change health plans on a monthly basis throughout the year. American Indians and Alaska Natives with income at or below 300% of the FPL will not have to pay out-of-pocket costs such as copays, deductibles, and coinsurance.

## **Eligibility for Advance Premium Tax Credits and ConnectorCare**

- ConnectorCare plans may be available for households with income at 300% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) or lower.
- Advance Premium Tax Credits (APTC) may be available at any income level. The amount you qualify for is based on the cost of plans available to you. APTC helps limit the cost of monthly premiums so that you have health plan choices that are not more than 8.5% of your household income, and often less. You may also qualify for tax credits if you are a lawfully present immigrant with an income that is at or below 100% of the FPL.

To qualify for Advance Premium Tax Credits and ConnectorCare, you will also need to meet the following requirements:

- are not enrolled in Medicare or eligible for Medicare;

- are not able to buy health insurance through an employer that meets “minimum value” requirements and is affordable; or
- are not otherwise eligible MassHealth;
- agree to file federal income taxes for each year that you get benefits; and
- agree to file taxes jointly if you are married.

## **How do I know if my employer’s plan meets minimum value standards?**

“Minimum value” standards mean that the health plan will pay at least 60% of the total cost of medical services for a standard population. The other 40% of costs would be paid by members through deductibles, copays, and coinsurance. Most employer plans meet the Minimum Value standards. To find out if your employer’s plan meets these standards, talk to your human resources department or the health plan.

## **Which employer plans are considered “affordable”?**

Under the Affordable Care Act (ACA), your employer’s plan is considered affordable in 2022 if the lowest-cost plan that covers only the employee costs less than 9.61% of your household’s income. Do not use the cost of a family plan, even if you need coverage for your whole family.

## **Tax filing requirements**

To get tax credits or a ConnectorCare plan, you need to file income taxes for the year when you got health benefits. If you are married, you need to file your income taxes jointly, unless you are a victim of domestic abuse or abandoned by a spouse.

If you have ever received an Advance Premium Tax Credit (APTC) in the past or had a ConnectorCare plan, you are required to “reconcile” the tax credit you received with the IRS. To reconcile, you need to file IRS Form 8962 with your federal income tax return. Form 8962 has information the IRS uses to see if you got the right amount of tax credit to lower your health insurance premiums throughout the year.

If you received too much tax credit in advance, you could owe some or all of it back to the IRS. If you received too little tax credit, you could get back the amount you overpaid.

You will need to file Form 8962 with your taxes every year you receive an APTC.

## **Premiums**

If you have a monthly premium, it must be paid by the 23rd of every month. When you enroll in a plan through the Health Connector, you will need to pay your first premium by the 23rd of the month before your coverage can start.

## **Coverage begins**

After you qualify for a health or dental insurance plan through the Health Connector, you must complete your enrollment before your coverage can begin. To finish enrolling, you must choose a health or dental insurance plan and pay your first premium bill by the 23rd of the month. Once you have chosen a plan and paid your first bill, your coverage will begin on the first day of the following month.

# **SECTION 5**

## **THE HEALTH SAFETY NET**

The Health Safety Net (HSN) pays Massachusetts acute hospitals and community health centers for certain health care services provided to low-income patients. HSN pays for services provided to Massachusetts residents with household income at or below 300% of the federal poverty level. Eligibility for the HSN is determined by MassHealth.

### **Who can get benefits**

The HSN may be able to pay for certain services you receive from an acute hospital or a community health center if you are a resident of Massachusetts and are uninsured or underinsured (your health insurance does not cover all medically necessary services).

### **Income standards**

You must give us proof of your income for every person in your household. The HSN generally covers individuals with household income at or below 300% of the federal poverty level. If your income is above 150% of the federal poverty level, and at or below 300%, an annual deductible based on income may apply. The deductible is a certain amount of health care costs you are responsible for. Both paid and unpaid bills can count toward your deductible. Only

services that the HSN can pay for will count toward your deductible. Private doctor and private lab or radiology bills do not count toward the deductible, even if you get these services in a hospital. Ask your provider which bills can count toward your deductible.

## **Covered services**

For the HSN, services must be provided by a Massachusetts acute hospital or community health center. The HSN will generally pay for the same services that are covered by MassHealth Standard. The HSN pays for some pharmacy services, but you must fill your prescription at a pharmacy associated with the doctor who wrote your prescription. There may be some limits, so you should always check with a provider to see if they offer the service. You may be charged copays and deductibles.

## **Some of the services not covered**

Some noncovered services are listed below. You should check with your provider to find out the full list of what is and is not covered.

- Physicians that are not employed by the hospital, even if they work at the hospital
- Ambulance services
- Lab charges that are not billed by a Massachusetts acute care hospital or community health center

- Radiology services that are not billed by a Massachusetts acute care hospital or community health center
- Durable medical equipment, except for crutches and canes provided during a medical visit
- Nonmedical services (social, educational, vocational)
- Nonmedically necessary services
- Experimental or unproven services

*A more detailed description of the services covered and any limitations can be found in the HSN regulations at 101 CMR 613.00.*

## **Eligibility begins**

If you are eligible, your HSN eligibility may begin up to 10 days before the date MassHealth gets your application, if we get all the needed information within 90 days. Ask your provider if you have retroactive HSN eligibility.

## **Deductible income standard**

If your income is above 150% of the federal poverty level, you may be responsible for a deductible. An HSN deductible is either equal to the current annual cost of the lowest ConnectorCare monthly premium (\$554 as of the date of the publication of this Senior Guide), or 40% of the difference between the lowest MAGI income in your Premium Billing Family Group and 200% of the federal poverty level, whichever is higher.

## **Grievance process**

Patients may request that the HSN conduct a review of a medical hardship eligibility determination, or of provider compliance with the HSN regulations. To file a grievance with the HSN, send a letter to

Health Safety Net Office  
Attn. HSN Grievances  
100 Hancock Street, 6th floor  
Quincy, MA 02171.

The letter should include your name and address, and, if possible, information about the situation, the reason for the grievance, the provider's name (if a provider is involved), and any other relevant information. Questions about filing a grievance should be directed to the HSN Help Line at (877) 910-2100.



## SECTION 6

The MassHealth coverage types are briefly explained on the following pages. If you have a question about which services are covered, call us at (800) 841-2900, TTY: (800) 497-4648.

### MassHealth Card

Individuals eligible for MassHealth Standard, CommonHealth, Family Assistance, Senior Buy-In, and Limited coverage will receive a MassHealth card. You must show your MassHealth card to your doctor or other health care provider whenever you get medical care. If you have other health insurance, be sure to show all cards.



# MassHealth Coverage Types

## Standard

MassHealth Standard is the most complete coverage offered by MassHealth. It pays for a wide range of health-care benefits including long-term-care services.

### Coverage Start Date (if eligible)

Coverage generally begins on the first date of the month that MassHealth gets your filled-out and signed Senior Application. If you have unpaid medical bills, coverage may begin up to three months before the month of your application if you can prove you would have met the eligibility rules.\*

\* *If you are applying for long-term care at home or in a facility, the date your coverage begins is subject to other rules.*

### Covered Services

For MassHealth Standard, covered services include the ones listed below. There may be some limits. Your health care provider can explain them.

- Inpatient hospital services (see Note 1)
- Outpatient services: hospitals, clinics, doctors, dentists, home health care
- Medical services (see Note 1): lab tests, X rays, therapy, prescription drugs (see Note 2), dentures, eyeglasses, hearing aids, medical equipment and supplies

- Acupuncture services\*\*
- Mental health and addiction services: inpatient and outpatient
- Hospice services—special rules apply
- Pharmacy (see Note 2)
- Transportation—special rules apply
- Personal care attendant services—special rules apply
- Long-term-care services—special rules apply
- Chronic disease and rehabilitation inpatient hospital services—special rules apply
- Adult day health and adult foster care
- Care and services related to an organ transplant procedure (if approved)
- Payment of Medicare cost sharing—Medicare Part A and B premiums and nonpharmacy Medicare copays and deductibles

**\*\*** *Certain restrictions can be found in the MassHealth regulations at 130 CMR 447.000.*

Certain adults may have some copays for drugs dispensed by a pharmacy.

A complete listing and a more detailed description of the services covered can be found in the MassHealth regulations at 130 CMR 450.105. You may have copays for some services. More information on copays can be found in the MassHealth regulations at 130 CMR 450.130 and 130 CMR 520.

## **CommonHealth**

MassHealth CommonHealth offers health care benefits similar to MassHealth Standard to disabled adults who cannot get MassHealth Standard.

### **Who can get benefits**

You may be able to get MassHealth CommonHealth if you are a resident of Massachusetts and area disabled adult who works 40 hours or more a month or is currently working and has worked at least 240 hours in the six months immediately before the month of the application.

MassHealth decides if you are disabled according to the standards set by federal and state law. For an adult, this generally means you have a mental or physical condition that severely limits your ability to work or to do certain activities for at least 12 months.

### **Income standards**

If your household income is above 150% of the FPL, you will have to pay monthly premiums. The amount of the premium is based on

- your monthly income, as it compares to the FPL,
- your household size, and
- if you have other health insurance.

If you must pay a premium, we will tell you the amount and send you a bill every month.

Certain adults may have some copays for drugs dispensed by a pharmacy.

## **Covered services**

For MassHealth CommonHealth, covered services include the ones listed below. There may be some limits. Your health care provider can explain them.

- Inpatient hospital services\*
- Outpatient services: hospitals, clinics, doctors, dentists, family planning, and vision care
- Medical services: lab tests, X-rays, therapies, pharmacy services, eyeglasses, hearing aids, medical equipment and supplies, adult day health, and adult foster care
- Acupuncture services\*\*\*
- Behavioral health (mental health and addiction) services
- Long-term-care services at home or in a long-term-care facility, including home health services
- Transportation services\*\*
- Quit-smoking services

\* *Certain restrictions can be found in the MassHealth regulations at 130 CMR 415.000.*

\*\* *Certain restrictions can be found in the MassHealth regulations at 130 CMR 407.000.*

\*\*\* *Certain restrictions can be found in the MassHealth regulations at 130 CMR 447.000.*

A complete listing and a more detailed description of the services covered can be found in the MassHealth regulations

at 130 CMR 450.105. You may have copays for some services. More information on copays can be found in the MassHealth regulations at 130 CMR 450.130.

## **Family Assistance**

MassHealth Family Assistance is available to seniors who meet the income and asset rules for MassHealth Standard, but have an immigration status that keeps them from getting MassHealth Standard. Family Assistance pays for a wide range of health care benefits. Family Assistance doesn't pay for long-term care.

### **Coverage Start Date (if eligible)**

Coverage generally begins on the first date of the month that MassHealth gets your filled-out and signed Senior Application. If you have unpaid medical bills, coverage may begin up to three months before the month of your application if you can prove you would have met the eligibility rules.

### **Covered Services**

For MassHealth Family Assistance, covered services include the ones listed below. There may be some limits. Your health care provider can explain them.

- Inpatient hospital services (see Note 1)
- Outpatient services: hospitals, clinics, doctors, dentists
- Medical services (see Note 1): lab tests, X rays, therapy, prescription drugs, dentures, medical equipment and supplies

- Acupuncture services\*
- Mental health and addiction services: inpatient and outpatient
- Pharmacy
- Ambulance transportation for an emergency medical condition only

\* *Certain restrictions can be found in the MassHealth regulations at 130 CMR 447.000.*

**Note 1:** There may be some limitations, including age.

**Note 2:** If you are eligible for both Medicare and MassHealth, Medicare provides most of your prescription drug coverage through a Medicare prescription drug plan. This means you must choose and enroll in a Medicare prescription drug plan. If you do not choose a drug plan, Medicare will choose one for you. You may change plans at any time.

## **Emergency Aid to Elderly, Disabled and Children (EAEDC)**

Individuals 65 years of age or older who are getting cash assistance through the Department of Transitional Assistance's EAEDC program are eligible for MassHealth Standard or MassHealth Family Assistance.

**Note:** If you are getting cash benefits under the EAEDC program through the Department of Transitional Assistance, you will also get medical coverage under the EAEDC program.

## **Limited**

MassHealth Limited coverage is available to people aged 65 or older who meet the income and asset rules for MassHealth Standard or MassHealth Family Assistance, but have an immigration status that keeps them from getting MassHealth Standard or Family Assistance. MassHealth Limited doesn't pay for long-term care. Coverage is for emergency medical services only.

### **Coverage Start Date (if eligible)**

Coverage generally begins on the first date of the month that MassHealth gets your filled-out and signed Senior Application. If you have unpaid medical bills, coverage may begin up to three months before the month of your application if you can prove you would have met the eligibility rules.

### **Covered Services**

For MassHealth Limited, covered services include the ones listed below. You can get care only for medical emergencies (conditions that could cause serious harm if not treated). There may be some limits. Your health care provider can explain them.

- Inpatient hospital services: emergency services only
- Outpatient hospital services: emergency services and emergency visits to emergency departments
- Certain medical services provided by doctors and clinics outside of a hospital



- Pharmacy services for treating an emergency medical condition
- Ambulance transportation for an emergency medical condition only

## **MASSHEALTH MEDICARE SAVINGS (ALSO KNOWN AS BUY-IN) PROGRAMS**

The MassHealth Medicare Savings (Buy-In) programs help pay some of the out-of-pocket costs of Medicare. The Buy-in programs can also help get Medicare Part B for people who only have Medicare Part A. If you are in a Buy-in program, you will also be automatically enrolled in the Medicare Part D Extra Help program, which can help with pharmacy costs.

### **MassHealth Senior Buy-In**

MassHealth Senior Buy-In may pay for Medicare Part B (and in some cases Part A) premiums and for deductibles and coinsurance under Part A and B.

#### **Coverage Start Date**

Coverage begins on the first day of the month after the date MassHealth decides that you qualify.

### **MassHealth Buy-In**

MassHealth Buy-In may pay for Medicare Part B premiums.

## **Coverage Start Date**

Coverage begins with the month that MassHealth gets your filled-out and signed MassHealth Buy-In application and may begin up to three months before the month of your application.

*For more information about Medicare Savings (Buy-In) Programs, go to 130 CMR 519.010 and 519.011.*

*A complete listing and details of the covered services can be found in the MassHealth regulations at 130 CMR 450.105, 415.000 (inpatient hospital services), and 407.000 (transportation services). More information on copays can be found at 130 CMR 450.130.*

## **Other Programs**

### **Senior Care Options (SCO) Program**

#### **What it is and whom it is for**

Senior Care Options (SCO) is a comprehensive health program. SCO covers all of the services normally paid for through Medicare and MassHealth. The SCO program provides services to members through a SCO plan and its network of providers. SCO offers the opportunity to receive quality health care by combining health services with social support services. It does this by coordinating care and specialized geriatric support services, along with respite care for families and caregivers.

There are no copays for members enrolled in SCO.

Enrollment is open to MassHealth Standard members who meet the following criteria:

- are 65 years of age or older;
- live at home or in a long-term-care facility (a member cannot be an inpatient at a chronic or rehabilitation hospital, or reside in an intermediate care facility for the intellectually disabled);
- are not subject to a six-month deductible period under MassHealth regulations at 130 CMR 520.000;
- are not diagnosed with end-stage renal disease; and
- live in an area served by a SCO plan.

SCO offers seniors the benefits of coordinated care services. Members enrolled in SCO have 24-hour access to care and active involvement in decisions about their health care. SCO members have a primary care provider (PCP) who is affiliated with the SCO plan. The member's PCP and a team of nurses, specialists, and a geriatric support services coordinator work with the member (and family members or caregivers, if applicable) to develop a plan of care to specifically address the needs of the member.

Covered services include all MassHealth and Medicare covered services, for example: meal delivery, transportation, adult day health, social services, prescriptions\*, hospitalizations, and, if necessary, nursing facility placement.

Enrollment in SCO is voluntary, and once enrolled, a member may disenroll any month of the year.

\* *SCO provides your Medicare prescription drug coverage.*

## **Where to call**

Senior Care Options at (888) 885-0484, TTY: (888) 821-5225.

The following MassHealth benefits are some of the wide range of community, residential, and institutional long-term supports available to persons 65 years of age or older or disabled persons.

## **Group Adult Foster Care**

If you need help with daily personal care and need to live in supported housing or an assisted living residence\*\*, group adult foster care may be right for you.

**\*\*** *If applying for group adult foster care in assisted living, the SSI-G living arrangement through the Social Security Administration may be an option.*

## **Adult Foster Care**

If you need help with daily personal care, and would like to get that care in a family, home-like setting, adult foster care may be right for you.

## **Adult Day Health**

If you need help with personal care and/or nursing services provided in a medically supervised, structured day program setting, adult day health may be right for you.

## **Day Habilitation Program**

If you are a person with intellectual or developmental disabilities and need assistance to develop skills designed

to help keep you independent in the community, the Day Habilitation Program may be right for you.

## **Nursing Facility Care**

If you need skilled nursing services provided in an institutional setting on a short- or long-term basis, nursing facility care may be right for you.

Requirements to be met

- A doctor's approval stating that these services are right for you
- A clinical approval from the designated clinical agent\*
- The need for daily personal care\*
- Financial requirements as described in this guide

\* *Not required for the Day Habilitation Program*

## **Where to call**

For general financial questions about MassHealth call us at (800) 841-2900, TTY: (800) 497-4648.

# **SECTION 7**

## **YOUR RIGHTS, RESPONSIBILITIES, and OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT MASSHEALTH**

### **Confidentiality and fair treatment**

MassHealth complies with applicable federal civil rights laws. We do not discriminate against, exclude, or treat people differently because of race, color, national origin, age, disability, religion, creed, sexual orientation or sex, including gender identity and gender stereotyping.

MassHealth provides free aids and services to applicants and members with disabilities or limited English proficiency such as qualified interpreters and written information in other formats or languages in accordance with the requirements of federal and state law.

If you need these services, contact us at (800) 841-2900, TTY: (800) 497-4648.

If you believe that MassHealth has failed to provide these services or discriminated in another way on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, religion, creed, sexual orientation, or sex including gender identity and gender stereotyping, you can file a grievance with:

Section 1557 Compliance Coordinator  
1 Ashburton Place, 11th Floor  
Boston, MA 02108

Phone: (617) 573-1704, TTY: (617) 573-1696

Fax: (617) 889-7862, or

Email at: [Section1557Coordinator@state.ma.us](mailto:Section1557Coordinator@state.ma.us).

You can file a grievance in person or by mail, fax, or email. If you need help filing a grievance, the Section 1557 Compliance Coordinator can help you.

You can also file a civil rights complaint with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office for Civil Rights in the following ways:

Electronically through the Office for Civil Rights Complaint Portal at <https://ocrportal.hhs.gov/ocr/portal/lobby.jsf>

Mail

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
200 Independence Avenue SW.

Room 509F, HHH Building

Washington, DC 20201, or

Phone at (800) 368-1019,

TTY/TDD: (800) 537-7697.

Complaint forms are available at

[www.hhs.gov/ocr/office/file/index.html](http://www.hhs.gov/ocr/office/file/index.html).

MassHealth and the Health Connector are committed to keeping the personal information we have about you confidential. All personal information we have about any

applicant or member, including medical data, health status, and the personal information you give us during your application for and receipt of benefits is confidential. This information may not be used or released for purposes not related to the administration of MassHealth or the Health Connector without your permission unless required by law or a court order.

You can give us your written permission to use your personal health information for a specific purpose or share it with a specific person or organization. You can also give us your permission to share your personal information with your authorized representative, Certified Application Counselor (CAC), or Navigator, if you have one, by filling out an Authorized Representative Designation Form, a Certified Application Counselor Designation Form, or a Navigator Designation Form. We may contact you to distribute information related to other health and welfare benefits you may be eligible to receive.

For more information about how MassHealth and the Health Connector may use and share your information and what your rights are regarding your information, please review the MassHealth Notice of Privacy Practices and the Health Connector's Privacy Policy. You can get a copy of the MassHealth Notice of Privacy Practices by calling (800) 841-2900, TTY: (800) 497-4648 or by visiting [www.mass.gov/masshealth](http://www.mass.gov/masshealth). You can view the Health Connector's Privacy Policy at [www.MAhealthconnector.org/site-policies/privacy-policy](http://www.MAhealthconnector.org/site-policies/privacy-policy).



## **Authorized representative**

An authorized representative is someone you choose to help you get health care coverage through programs offered by MassHealth and the Massachusetts Health Connector. You can do this by filling out the Authorized Representative Designation Form (ARD). An authorized representative may fill out your application or eligibility review forms, give proof of information given on these eligibility forms, report changes in your income, address, or other circumstances, get copies of all MassHealth or Health Connector eligibility or enrollment notices sent to you, and act on your behalf in all other matters with MassHealth or the Health Connector.

An authorized representative can be a friend, family member, relative, or other person or organization of your choosing who agrees to help you. It is up to you to choose an authorized representative, if you want one. MassHealth or the Health Connector will not choose an authorized representative for you.

You must designate in writing on the Authorized Representative Designation Form the person or organization you want to be your authorized representative. In most cases, your authorized representative must also fill out this form. This form is included in the application packet, or you can call us at (800) 841-2900, TTY: (800) 497-4648, or visit [www.mass.gov/masshealth](http://www.mass.gov/masshealth), to get one. Please see the instructions on the form for more details.

An authorized representative can also be someone who is acting responsibly on your behalf if you cannot designate an authorized representative in writing because of a mental or physical condition, or has been appointed by law to act on your behalf or on behalf of your estate. This person must fill out the applicable parts of the Authorized Representative Designation Form. If this person has been appointed by law to represent you, either you or this person must also submit to MassHealth or the Health Connector a copy of the applicable legal document stating that this person is lawfully representing you or your estate. This person may be a legal guardian, conservator, holder of power of attorney, or health care proxy, or if the applicant or member has died, the estate's administrator or executor.

## **Permission to share information**

If you want us to share your personal health information, including sending copies of your eligibility notices, with someone who is not your authorized representative, you can do this by giving us written permission. We have forms you can use to do this. You can call us or visit [www.mass.gov/masshealth](http://www.mass.gov/masshealth) to get a copy of the right form.

## **Reporting changes**

You must tell us about any changes that may affect your eligibility within 10 days of the changes or as soon as possible. See Section 9, Where To Get Help, for information

on where to report changes. These changes include but are not limited to

- income
- health insurance
- assets
- immigration status
- disability status
- address

If you do not tell us about changes, your MassHealth benefits may stop and you will not be able to use your MassHealth card.

## **Giving correct information**

Giving incorrect or false information may end your benefits. It may also result in fines, imprisonment, or both.

## **Our decision and your right to appeal**

We will send you a notice to let you know if you can or cannot get one of the MassHealth coverage types or programs, Health Connector plans, or the Health Safety Net. If you think that our decision is wrong, you have the right to ask for a fair hearing to appeal our decision. Notices have information that explains how to ask for a fair hearing and how much time you have to ask for one.

See Board of Hearings in Section 9 to find out where to send your fair hearing request. If you have questions about a MassHealth notice or how to ask for an appeal, call us at (800) 841-2900, TTY: (800) 497-4648.

If you have questions about a Health Connector appeal, call the Health Connector at (877) 623-6765.

If you have questions about a Health Safety Net grievance, call the Health Safety Net Customer Service Center at (877) 910-2100. Health Safety Net determinations are conducted through MassHealth.

## **Information about Getting Medical Services While on MassHealth Standard, Family Assistance, or Limited**

### **Prior approval**

For some medical services, your doctor or health care provider has to get approval from MassHealth first. This is called “prior approval.” Medical services that are covered by Medicare do not need prior approval from MassHealth.

### **If you have other health insurance**

If you also have Medicare, Medigap, or any other kind of health insurance, your health care provider must bill the other insurers first. MassHealth will pay any remaining copays or deductibles. **Your health care provider must**

**not bill you for any service or part of any service that is covered by MassHealth.**

**Note:** MassHealth will not pay any part of the cost of services covered by other health insurance.

### **Out-of-pocket expenses**

In some cases, MassHealth can pay you back for medical bills that you paid before you got your MassHealth approval notice. We will do this if

- we denied your eligibility and later decided that the denial was incorrect; or
- you paid for a MassHealth-covered medical service that you got before we told you that you would get MassHealth. In this case, your health care provider must pay you back and bill MassHealth for the service. The provider must accept the MassHealth payment as payment in full.

### **If you or members of your household are in an accident**

If you or any members of your household are in an accident or are injured in some other way, and get money from a third party because of that accident or injury, you will need to use that money to repay whoever paid the medical expenses related to that accident or injury.

- You will have to pay MassHealth for services that were covered by MassHealth

- » If you are applying for MassHealth because of an accident or injury, you will need to use the money to repay the costs paid by MassHealth for all medical services you and your household get.
- » If you or any members of your household are in an accident, or are injured in some other way, after becoming eligible for MassHealth, you will need to use that money to repay only the costs paid by MassHealth for medical services provided because of that accident or injury.
- You will have to pay the Massachusetts Health Connector or your health insurer for certain medical services provided.
- You will have to pay the Health Safety Net for medical services reimbursed for you and any household members.
- You must tell MassHealth, your health insurer including ConnectorCare plans, or the Health Safety Net in writing within 10 calendar days, or as soon as possible, if you file any insurance claim or lawsuit because of an accident or injury to you or any household members who are applying for, or who already have, benefits. Third parties who might give you or members of your household money because of an accident or injury include the following:
  - » a person or business who may have caused the accident or injury;

- » an insurance company, including your own insurance company; or
- » other sources, like workers' compensation.

*For more information about accident recovery, see the MassHealth regulations at 130 CMR 517.000 and Chapter 118E of the Massachusetts General Laws.*

## **Out-of-state emergency treatment**

MassHealth is a health care program for people living in Massachusetts who get medical care in Massachusetts. In certain situations, MassHealth may pay for emergency treatment for a medical condition when a MassHealth member is out of state\*. Special rules apply.

If an emergency occurs while you are out of state, show your MassHealth card and any other health insurance cards you have, if possible. Also, be sure to call us at (800) 841-2900, TTY: (800) 497-4648 within 24 hours of the emergency treatment, or as soon as you can.

- \* *Per MassHealth regulation 130 CMR 450.109(B), MassHealth does not cover any medical services provided outside the United States and its territories.*

## **The MassHealth card**

If you are eligible for MassHealth Standard, MassHealth Family Assistance, MassHealth Limited, or MassHealth Senior Buy-In, you will get a MassHealth card. You must show your MassHealth card to your doctor or other health

care provider whenever you get medical care. Those determined to be low income for the purposes of the Health Safety Net (HSN) will not get a card. If you are eligible for HSN services, hospitals and community health centers will check to determine if they can get reimbursement for services provided to you and your spouse.

## **Our decision**

We will contact you if we need more information to make our decision. We will send you a written notice about your eligibility generally within 45 days of the date we get your filled-out and signed application.

- If you are eligible, the notice will tell you the date your coverage begins. See Section 6 for information about services and benefits that are available under each coverage type.
- If you have a deductible, the notice will tell you how we determined the deductible amount and what you need to do to meet the deductible.
- If you have to pay a patient-paid amount (PPA) to the long-term-care facility, the notice will tell you the amount and how we determined the PPA.
- If you are not eligible, the notice will tell you the reason and your right to appeal our decision. See Section 7.



## **Copay and premium information for American Indians/Alaska Natives**

American Indians and Alaska Natives who have received or are eligible to receive a service from an Indian health care provider or from a non-Indian health care provider through referral from an Indian health care provider are exempt from paying copays and premiums as MassHealth members.

## **How we use your social security number**

Unless one of the exceptions on page 6 applies, you must give us a social security number (SSN) or proof that one has been applied for, for every household member who is applying. MassHealth may require you to give us the SSN, if you can get it, of any person not applying who has or who can get health insurance that covers you or any member of your household. MassHealth is allowed to ask for SSNs under The Tax Reform Act of 1976 which amended Section 205(c)(2) of the Social Security Act and under 130 CMR 503.003.

We use SSNs to check information you have given us. We also use them to detect fraud, to see if anyone is getting duplicate benefits, or to see if others (a “third party”) should be paying for services.

We match the SSN of anyone in your household who is applying and anyone who has or who can get health insurance for any such persons with the files of agencies, including the following:

- Internal Revenue Service
- Social Security Administration
- Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements (SAVE)
- Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS)
- Registry of Motor Vehicles
- Department of Revenue
- Department of Transitional Assistance
- Department of Industrial Accidents
- Division of Unemployment Assistance
- Department of Veterans' Services, Human Resource Division
- Bureau of Special Investigations
- Bureau of Vital Statistics (Department of Public Health)
- Banks
- Other financial institutions

If MassHealth pays part of your health insurance premiums, MassHealth may add your SSN or the SSN of the policyholder in your household to the State Comptroller's vendor file. You or the policyholder in your household must have a valid SSN before you can get a payment from MassHealth.

Files may also be matched with social service agencies in this state and other states, and computer files of insurance companies, employers, and managed care organizations. Additionally MassHealth may obtain your financial record

(and, if applicable, those of your household members) from banks and other financial institutions in order to verify your financial resources and otherwise determine your eligibility while you are a MassHealth member.

## **Recovery against estates of certain members after their death**

Under federal and state law, MassHealth has the right to recover money from the assets of estates of certain MassHealth members after their death, unless exceptions apply. MassHealth has the right to be repaid for the total cost of care for services paid by MassHealth, for members age 55 years or older or for members of any age who are permanently in a long-term care or other medical facility.

Estate recovery may apply to MassHealth members regardless of whether or not they are enrolled in a health plan. MassHealth payments eligible for estate recovery include payments made directly by MassHealth to health care providers for a member's care. For members enrolled in a health plan, such as a Managed Care Organization, Accountable Care Organization, Senior Care Options, PACE or One Care, estate recovery may also include reimbursement for the total amount in monthly premium payments made by MassHealth to the health plan.

MassHealth can only recover from assets that are in a member's probate estate. These assets may include real property such as a home, business or income-producing

property, as well as money in bank accounts. MassHealth only seeks repayment when a member leaves a probate estate with \$25,000 or more in assets. There are several ways individuals or families can delay estate recovery or obtain a waiver of some or all of the recovery amount in cases of undue hardship.

- Recovery can be delayed if the member leaves behind a surviving spouse, adult child who is blind, permanently and totally disabled, or child younger than 21 years of age.
- If estate recovery would cause an undue hardship, MassHealth may waive all or part of the recovery amount in certain circumstances.

For members age 55 or older who were eligible for both MassHealth and Medicare, MassHealth will not recover Medicare cost sharing benefits (premiums, deductibles and copayments) paid on or after January 1, 2010.

In addition, if the member, on the date of admission to the long-term care facility, had certain long-term care insurance\* and met the other requirements under the rules to qualify for this exception, the estate of a MassHealth member may not have to repay MassHealth for nursing facility and other long-term care services.

- \* *The long-term care insurance must meet the rules of the Division of Insurance under 211 CMR 65.09, and MassHealth regulations at 130 CMR 515.000. The member must also have been living in a long-term care facility and told MassHealth that he or she did not intend to return home.*

For more information about estate recovery, see the MassHealth regulations at 130 CMR 501.000 and 515.000, Chapter 118E of the Massachusetts General Laws, and visit [mass.gov/EstateRecovery](http://mass.gov/EstateRecovery).

## **Repayment from annuities**

The Commonwealth must be named as a remainder beneficiary of any annuity bought, annuitized, or otherwise changed by a MassHealth applicant, member, or spouse on or after February 8, 2006, for the total amount of medical assistance paid for the institutionalized individual. This beneficiary designation must not be removed.

*See the MassHealth regulations at 130 CMR 520.000 for more information.*

## **Signing up to vote**

This guide includes information about voter registration. You do not need to register to vote to get benefits.

# **SECTION 8**

## **U.S. CITIZENSHIP AND IMMIGRATION RULES**

When deciding if you are eligible for benefits, we look at all the requirements described under each coverage type and program. We will try to prove your U.S. citizenship/national status and immigration status using federal and state data services to decide if you may get a certain coverage type.

### **U.S. Citizens/Nationals**

U.S. citizens/nationals may be eligible for MassHealth Standard and Family Assistance. They may also be eligible for ConnectorCare Plans and premium tax credits or the Health Safety Net.

**Proof of citizenship and identity is required for all U.S. citizens/nationals.**

A citizen of the United States is:

- an individual who was born in the United States or its territories, including Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, and the Northern Mariana Islands, except if born to a foreign diplomat and who otherwise qualifies for U.S. citizenship under § 301 et seq. of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA);

- an individual born of a parent who is a U.S. citizen or who otherwise qualifies for U.S. citizenship under § 301 et seq. of the INA;
- a naturalized citizen; or
- a national (both citizen and noncitizen national).
  - » Citizen national. A citizen national is an individual who otherwise qualifies as a U.S. citizen under § 301 et seq. of the INA.
  - » Noncitizen national. A noncitizen national is an individual who was born in one of the outlying possessions of the United States, including American Samoa and Swain’s Island, to a parent who is a noncitizen national.

## **Non U.S. citizens**

To get the type of MassHealth that gives the most coverage, or to get a Health Connector plan, satisfactory immigration status must be proved. MassHealth and the Health Connector will perform information matches with state and federal agencies to prove immigration statuses. If electronic sources are unable to prove declared status, additional documentation will be required from the individuals.

Non-U.S. citizens do not have to submit their immigration documents with the application if they are applying only for their children, but are not applying for any health benefits for themselves.

## **Lawfully present immigrants**

The following are lawfully present immigrants.

### **Qualified noncitizens**

People who meet one of the following statuses may be eligible for MassHealth Standard or CommonHealth. They may also be eligible for benefits through the Health Connector or the Health Safety Net.

There are two groups of qualified noncitizens:

1. People who are qualified regardless of when they entered the U.S. or how long they have had a qualified status. Such individuals are:
  - » people granted asylum under section 208 of the INA;
  - » refugees admitted under section 207 of the INA;
  - » people whose deportation has been withheld under section 243(h) or 241(b)(3) of the INA, as provided by section 5562 of the federal Balanced Budget Act of 1997;
  - » veterans, their spouses, and their children
    - veterans of the United States Armed Forces with an honorable discharge not related to their noncitizen status; or
    - Filipino war veterans who fought under U.S. command during WWII; or
    - Hmong and Highland Lao veterans who are



- admitted for legal permanent residence (LPR) and who fought under U.S. command during the Vietnam War; or
- persons with noncitizen status on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces, other than active duty for training; or
  - the spouse, unremarried surviving spouse, or unmarried dependent children of the noncitizen described in (i) through (iv) above;
- » conditional entrants under section 203(a)(7) of the INA as in effect before April 1, 1980;
  - » people who entered as Cuban/Haitian entrants under section 501(e) of the Refugee Education Assistance Act of 1980;
  - » for Medicaid, Native Americans with at least 50 percent American Indian blood who were born in Canada pursuant to section 289 of the INA or other tribal members born in territories outside of the United States pursuant to 25 U.S.C. 450b(e);
  - » Amerasians as described in section 402(a)(2)(A) (i)(V) of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act (PRWORA) of 1996;
  - » victims of severe forms of trafficking, and the spouse, child, sibling, or parent of the victim in accordance with the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000 (Public Law 106-386) as amended;

- » Iraqi Special Immigrants granted special immigrant status under Section 101(a) (27) of the INA, pursuant to section 1244 of Public Law 110-181 or section 525 of Public Law 110-161; or
- » Afghan Special Immigrants granted special immigrant status under Section 101(a)(27) of the INA, pursuant to section 525 of Public Law 110-161.
- » for Medicaid, migrants from the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau who legally reside in the United States pursuant to a series of treaties with the United States known as the Compacts of Free Association (COFA).
  - COFA migrants who adjust to legal permanent residence (LPR) status will have a special five-year bar rule applied. The individual would be subject to the special five-year bar rule unless they also have or had a status listed at 130 CMR 518.003(A)(1)(a).
  - COFA migrants who adjust to LPR status after the change of law on December 27, 2020, will be able to use the date they began residing in the United States as a COFA migrant or December 27, 2020, whichever is later, as the first day for purposes of meeting the five-year bar.
  - COFA migrants who adjusted to LPR status before the change of law on December 27, 2020, would have the five-year bar period begin on the date that they became an LPR.

2. People who are qualified based on having a qualified status identified at “a” below and who have satisfied one of the conditions listed at “b” below. Such individuals are:

A. people who have one or more of the following statuses:

- people admitted for legal permanent residence (LPR) under the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA); or
- people granted parole for at least one year under section 212(d)(5) of the INA; or
- battered spouse, battered child, child of battered parent, or parent of battered child who meet the criteria of section 431(c) of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act (PRWORA) of 1996, 8 U.S.C. 1641; and also

B. satisfy at least one of the following three conditions:

- they have had a status listed in 2.a. above for five or more years (a battered noncitizen attains this status when the petition is accepted as establishing a prima facie case);
- they entered the U.S. before August 22, 1996, regardless of status at the time of entry, and have been continuously present in the U.S. until attaining a status listed in 2.a. above. For this purpose, an individual is deemed continuously present who has been absent from the U.S. for no more than 30 consecutive days or 90 nonconsecutive days before attaining a status listed in 2.a. above; or

- they also have or had a status listed in number 1 above.

### **Qualified noncitizens barred**

People who have a status listed under qualified noncitizens at 2.A. above (legal permanent resident, parolee for at least one year, or battered noncitizen) and who do not meet one of the conditions listed at 2.B. above, are qualified noncitizens barred. Qualified noncitizens barred, like qualified noncitizens, are lawfully present immigrants. Certain people who are qualified noncitizens barred may be eligible for MassHealth Standard, Family Assistance, or Limited. They may also be eligible for benefits through the Health Connector and the Health Safety Net.

### **Nonqualified individuals lawfully present**

Certain people who are nonqualified individuals lawfully present and meet one of the following statuses may be eligible for MassHealth Standard, Family Assistance, or Limited. They may also be eligible for benefits through the Health Connector and the Health Safety Net. Nonqualified individuals lawfully present are as follows.

- People in a valid nonimmigrant status as otherwise defined in 8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(15) or otherwise defined under immigration laws as defined in 8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(17).
- Qualified noncitizen as defined in 8 USC 1641 (b) and (c).
- People paroled into the U.S. in accordance with 8 U.S.C. 1182(d)(5) for less than one year, except for an individual

paroled for prosecution, for deferred inspection, or pending removal proceedings.

- People who belong to one of the following classes:
  - » granted temporary resident status in accordance with 8 U.S.C. 1160 or 1255a, respectively;
  - » granted Temporary Protected Status (TPS) in accordance with 8 U.S.C. 1254a, and individuals with pending applications for TPS who have been granted employment authorization;
  - » granted employment authorization under 8 CFR 274a.12(c);
  - » Family Unity beneficiaries in accordance with section 301 of Public Law 101- 649, as amended;
  - » under Deferred Enforced Departure (DED) in accordance with a decision made by the President;
  - » granted Deferred Action status, except for applicants or individuals granted status under DHS Deferred Action for Childhood Arrival Process (DACA);
  - » granted an administrative stay of removal under 8 CFR part 241; or
  - » beneficiary of approved visa petition who has a pending application for adjustment of status.
- People with a pending application for asylum under 8 U.S.C. 1158, or for withholding of removal under 8 U.S.C. 1231, or under the Convention Against Torture who:
  - » have been granted employment authorization; or

- » are under the age of 14 and have had an application pending for at least 180 days.
- People who have been granted withholding of removal under the Convention Against Torture.
- Children who have a pending application for Special Immigrant Juvenile status as described in 8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(27)(J).

### **Qualified noncitizens barred and nonqualified individuals lawfully present**

Qualified noncitizens barred and nonqualified individuals lawfully present who are aged 65 or older may be eligible for MassHealth Family Assistance, Limited, or the Health Safety Net.

### **Nonqualified Persons Residing Under Color of Law (Nonqualified PRUCOLs)**

Nonqualified PRUCOLs are certain noncitizens who are not lawfully present. These individuals may be permanently residing in the United States under color of law as described in 130 CMR 518.000. Certain people who are nonqualified PRUCOLs and meet one of the following statuses may be eligible for MassHealth Family Assistance or Limited. They may also be eligible for benefits through the Health Safety Net.

- Noncitizens living in the United States in accordance with an indefinite stay of deportation

- Noncitizens living in the United States in accordance with an indefinite voluntary departure
- Noncitizens and their families who are covered by an approved immediate relative petition, who are entitled to voluntary departure, and whose departure the United States Department of Homeland Security (DHS) does not contemplate enforcing
- Noncitizens granted voluntary departure by the DHS or an Immigration Judge, and whose deportation the DHS does not contemplate enforcing
- Noncitizens living under orders of supervision who do not have employment authorization under 8 CFR 274a.12(c)
- Noncitizens who have entered and continuously lived in the United States since before January 1, 1972
- Noncitizens granted suspension of deportation, and whose departure the DHS does not contemplate enforcing
- Noncitizens with a pending application for asylum under 8 U.S.C. 1158 or for withholding of removal under 8 U.S.C. 1231 or under the Convention against Torture who have not been granted employment authorization, or are under the age of 14 and have not had an application pending for at least 180 days
- Noncitizens granted Deferred Action for Childhood Arrival status or have a pending application for this status
- Noncitizens who have filed an application, petition, or request to obtain a lawfully present status that has been accepted as properly filed but who have not yet obtained

employment authorization and whose deportation DHS does not contemplate enforcing

- Any other noncitizens living in the United States with the knowledge and consent of the DHS, and whose departure the DHS does not contemplate enforcing. (These include persons granted Extended Voluntary Departure due to conditions in the noncitizens's home country based on a determination by the Secretary of State.)

### **Nonqualified PRUCOLs**

Nonqualified PRUCOLs who are aged 65 or older may be eligible for MassHealth Family Assistance, Limited, or the Health Safety Net.

### **Other noncitizens**

If your immigration status is not described above, you are considered an other noncitizen. You may be eligible for MassHealth Limited or the Health Safety Net.

**NOTE:** People who were getting MassHealth, formerly known as Medical Assistance, or CommonHealth on June 30, 1997, may continue to get benefits regardless of immigration status if otherwise eligible.

*The eligibility of immigrants for publicly funded benefits is defined in the federal Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996, the federal Balanced Budget Act of 1997, and in various provisions of state law. For additional details, see the MassHealth regulations at 130 CMR 518.000.*



# **U.S. Citizenship/National Status Requirements for MassHealth and ConnectorCare Plans and Premium Tax Credits**

## **Identity Requirements for MassHealth, ConnectorCare Plans and Premium Tax Credits, and the Health Safety Net**

### **Proof of both U.S. Citizenship/National Status AND Identity\***

- \* *Exception: 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.*

The following are acceptable forms of proof of BOTH U.S. citizenship/national status AND identity. (No other documentation is required.):

- a U.S. passport, including a U.S. Passport Card issued by the Department of State, without regard to any expiration date as long as this passport or Card was issued without limitation; or
- a Certificate of U.S. Naturalization; or
- a Certificate of U.S. Citizenship; or
- a document issued by a federally recognized Indian tribe, as published in the Federal Register by the Bureau of

Indian Affairs within the U.S. Department of the Interior, and identifies the federally recognized Indian Tribe that issued the document, identifies the individual by name and confirms the individual's membership, enrollment, or affiliation with the Tribe. These documents include, but are not limited to: a Tribal enrollment card, a Certificate of Degree of Indian Blood, a Tribal census document, and documents on Tribal letterhead issued under the signature of the appropriate Tribal official that meet the requirements of 130 CMR 518.000.

**OR**

**Proof of U.S. Citizenship/National Status Only**

If one of the documents that satisfies both citizenship and identity is not provided, the following documents may be accepted as proof of U.S. citizenship/national status only.

- A U.S. public birth certificate (including the 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico (on or after January 13, 1941), Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands (on or after January 17, 1917), American Samoa, Swain's Island, or the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) (after November 4, 1986). The birth record may be issued by the state, Commonwealth, territory, or local jurisdiction. The individual may also be collectively naturalized under federal regulations.
- A cross match with the Massachusetts Registry of Vital Statistics that documents a record of birth
- Certification of birth

- A U.S. Citizen ID card
- A Northern Mariana Identification Card issued to a collectively naturalized citizen who was born in the CNMI before November 4, 1986
- A final adoption decree showing the child's name and U.S. place of birth (if adoption is not final, a statement from a state-approved adoption agency that shows the child's name and U.S. place of birth)
- Evidence of U.S. civil service employment before June 1, 1976
- An official U.S. military record showing a U.S. place of birth
- A data match with the Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements (SAVE) Program or any other process established by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to prove an individual is a citizen
- Documentation that a child meets the requirements of section 101 of the Child Citizenship Act of 2000 (8 U.S.C. 1431)
- Medical records, including, but not limited to, hospital, clinic, or doctor records, or admission papers from a nursing facility, skilled care facility, or other institution that indicate a U.S. place of birth
- Life, health, or other insurance record that indicates a U.S. place of birth
- An official religious record recorded in the U.S. showing that the birth occurred in the U.S.

- School records, including preschool, Head Start, and day care, showing the child's name and U.S. place of birth
- Federal or state census record showing U.S. citizenship or a U.S. place of birth
- If an individual does not have one of the documents listed in 130 CMR 518.000, he or she may submit an affidavit signed by another individual, under penalty of perjury, who can reasonably attest to the individual's citizenship, and that contains the individual's name, date of birth, and place of U.S. birth. The affidavit does not have to be notarized.

## **PLUS**

### **Proof of Identity Only**

1. The following documents are acceptable as proof of identity, provided this documentation has a photograph or other identifying information including, but not limited to, name, age, sex, race, height, weight, eye color, or address.
  - » Identity documents listed at 8 CFR 274a.2(b)(1)(v)(B) (1), except a driver's license issued by a Canadian government authority
  - » A driver's license issued by a state or territory
  - » A school identification card
  - » A U.S. military card or draft record
  - » An identification card issued by the federal, state, or local government

- » A military dependent's identification card
- » A U.S. Coast Guard Merchant Mariner card
- 2. For children under age 19, a clinic, doctor, hospital, or school record, including preschool or day care records
- 3. Two documents containing consistent information that confirms an applicant's identity. These documents include, but are not limited to
  - » employer identification cards
  - » high school and college diplomas (including high school equivalency diplomas)
  - » marriage certificates
  - » divorce decrees
  - » property deeds or titles
  - » a pay stub from a current employer with the applicant's name and address preprinted, dated within 60 days of the application
  - » census proof containing the applicant's name and address, dated not more than 12 months before the date of the application
  - » a pension or retirement statement from a former employer or pension fund stating the applicant's name and address, dated within 12 months of the application
  - » tuition or student loan bill containing the applicant's name and address, dated not more than 12 months before the date of the application

- » utility bill, cell phone bill, credit card bill, doctor's bill, or hospital bill containing applicant's name and address, dated not more than 60 days before the date of the application
  - » valid homeowner's, renter's, or automobile insurance policy with preprinted address, dated not more than 12 months before the date of the application, or a bill for this insurance with preprinted address, dated not more than 60 days before the date of the application
  - » lease dated not more than 12 months before the date of the application, or home mortgage identifying applicant and address
  - » employment proved by W-2 forms or other documents showing the applicant's name and address submitted by the employer to a government agency as a consequence of employment
4. A finding of identity from a federal or state agency, including, but not limited to, a public assistance, law enforcement, internal revenue, tax bureau, or corrections agency, if the agency has proved and certified the identity of the individual
  5. A finding of identity from an Express Lane agency, as defined in section 1902(e)(13) (F) of the Social Security Act

If the applicant does not have any document specified in the first three main bullets above, and identity is not

proved through the fourth and fifth main bullets above, the applicant may submit an affidavit signed, under penalty of perjury, by another person who can reasonably attest to the applicant's identity. This affidavit must contain the applicant's name and other identifying information establishing identity, as described in the first main bullet above. This affidavit does not have to be notarized.

# **SECTION 9**

## **WHERE TO GET HELP**

### **MassHealth Customer Service Center**

(800) 841-2900, TTY: (800) 497-4648 for people who are deaf, hard of hearing, or speech disabled

#### **Topic**

- How to get a Senior Application
- How to get a Long-Term-Care Supplement or a PCA Supplement
- How to get a MassHealth Buy-In Application
- Where to send the Senior Application
- General eligibility information
- Covered medical services
- How to get interpreter services
- How to get acceptable forms of proof
- MassHealth premiums
- How to find a MassHealth provider
- Emergency services—out of Massachusetts
- Questions about the voter registration process and help filling out the Voter Registration Form
- Where to report changes



- » To report changes, call us at the phone number listed above, or:

Mail the change information to  
Health Insurance Processing Center  
PO Box 4405  
Taunton, MA 02780

- » Fax the change information to (857) 323-8300

## **Executive Office of Elder Affairs (EOEA)**

(800) AGE-INFO [(800) 243-4636, TTY: (877) 610-0241]

### **Topic**

- Elder Affairs Prescription Advantage Program

*(For persons who are not getting prescription drug benefits under MassHealth or Medicare, who are either under age 65 and disabled or aged 65 or older, and who want information about help with prescription drug costs)*

## **MassHealth Enrollment Center**

(800) 841-2900, TTY: (800) 497-4648 self-services available 24 hours/7 days a week

### **Topic**

- Member eligibility information How to get MassHealth forms Your eligibility notice
- How to ask for a fair hearing to appeal MassHealth decisions

- How to meet your deductible Your long-term-care patient-paid amount (PPA)
- How to replace a MassHealth card Information to process case
- Examples of acceptable forms of proof

## **Special MassHealth Programs**

(800) 408-1253, TTY: (800) 231-5698

- Kaileigh Mulligan Program—Home Care for Disabled Children
- PACE (Program of All-inclusive Care for the Elderly)

(800) AGE-INFO, TTY: MassRelay 711

- Frail Elder Program

(800) 841-2900, TTY (800) 497-4648

- Traumatic Brain Injury
- Adults with an Intellectual Disability

(866) 281-5602, TTY: (800) 596-1746

- Acquired Brain Injury

(855) 499-5109, TTY: (800) 596-1746

- Moving Forward Plan

## **Benefit Coordination/Third Party Liability**

(800) 462-1120

## **Topic**

- Real estate lien recovery
- Accident recovery
- Estate recovery

## **Board of Hearings**

(617) 847-1200 or (800) 655-0338

fax: (617) 847-1204

100 Hancock St., 6th Floor

Quincy, MA 02171

## **Topic**

- MassHealth appeals—fair hearings

## **MassHealth Disability Accommodation Ombudsman**

(617) 847-3468, TTY: (617) 847-3788)

100 Hancock Street, 6th floor

Quincy, MA 02171

[ADAAccommodations@state.ma.us](mailto:ADAAccommodations@state.ma.us)

## **Topic**

- For applicants and members with disabilities who need accommodations

## **Social Security Administration (SSA)**

(800) 772-1213 | [www.ssa.gov](http://www.ssa.gov)

### **Topic**

- Eligibility for Social Security enrollment in Medicare Parts A and B
- Social Security benefits Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits
- Applying for an SSN

## **Medicare prescription drug coverage**

(800) MEDICARE [(800) 633-4227, TTY: (877) 486-2048]  
[www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov)

## **Senior Care Options**

(888) 885-0484, TTY: (888) 821-5225

## **Massachusetts Health Connector**

(877) MA ENROLL [(877) 623-6765, TTY: (877) 623-7773]  
[www.MAhealthconnector.org](http://www.MAhealthconnector.org)

### **Topic**

- Reporting changes
- Information about enrollment in health plans, premiums, copays, other program information, and appeals information

- Health Connector member eligibility
- Information about Health Connector eligibility factor verifications and examples of acceptable forms of proof
- Information about Health Connector premium billing and status of payment

## **To report member or provider fraud**

(877) 437-2830, (877) 4-FRAUD-0

## **Health Safety Net Customer Service Center**

(877) 910-2100

### **Topic**

- Health Safety Net

## **Grievances with HSN**

Health Safety Net Office  
Attn: HSN Grievances  
Two Boylston St., 6th Floor  
Boston, MA 02116

## **Legal Services**

A list of free and low-cost legal services is available on the MassHealth website at [www.mass.gov/masshealth](http://www.mass.gov/masshealth).

If you would like this list in print form, call us at (800) 841-2900, TTY: (800) 497-4648.

## **Department of Transitional Assistance**

Do you need help meeting your basic needs?

DTA can provide you and your family with:

- SNAP (Food assistance)
- TAFDC or EAEDC (Economic assistance)

Households may be eligible for:

- Referrals to education, training or career preparatory programs
- Child care and transportation pay ments for those working or seeking work
- Nutrition education
- Free health insurance

### **To Learn More About DTA**

Visit our website at [mass.gov/dta](http://mass.gov/dta). Review information about the SNAP, TAFDC or EAEDC programs.

Call the DTA Assistance Line at 1-877-382-2363. Case managers are available Monday to Friday between 8:15 am to 4:45 pm. Self-service options are available through the assistance line 24/7.

Stop by a local Transitional Assistance Office. To find the nearest office, visit our website.

## **Apply For SNAP Today Via DTA Connect**

Apply for SNAP benefits online via [DTAconnect.com](http://DTAconnect.com). You can use the website or download the DTA Connect mobile application to keep tabs on your case. To apply for TAFDC or EAEDC, visit your local Transitional Assistance Office.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

## **IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT VOTER REGISTRATION**

Dear Applicant or Member:

The National Voter Registration Act of 1993 requires MassHealth to give you the opportunity to register to vote. Your decision to register to vote will not affect your eligibility for benefits.

A mail-in voter registration form is enclosed in the middle of this booklet, if this booklet contains the MassHealth application. If you would like a mail-in voter registration form sent to you, please call the MassHealth Customer Service Center at (800) 841-2900, TTY: (800) 497-4648.

When you get the form, fill it out and send it to your city or town hall. If you have any questions about the voter registration process, or if you need help filling out the form, call one of the listed telephone numbers, or visit a local MassHealth office. MassHealth office locations can be found at [www.mass.gov/masshealth](http://www.mass.gov/masshealth).

Remember: You will not be registered to vote until you send the filled-out voter registration form to your local city or town hall. Your local election department will let you know in writing when your voter registration has been processed. If you do not get written notification within a reasonable time, contact your local city or town hall election department for more information.

VOTE-3 (Rev. 03/15)

MassHealth updates the federal poverty levels each year based on changes made by the federal government. The income levels chart reflect the standards as of March 1, 2022.

These figures are rounded and may not reflect the figures used in program determination.

Please see our website at [www.mass.gov/service-details/eligibility-figures-tables-for-masshealth-applicants-and-members](http://www.mass.gov/service-details/eligibility-figures-tables-for-masshealth-applicants-and-members) for the most recent chart.



## Federal Poverty Levels (Monthly)

<b>Household Size</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>133%</b>	<b>150%</b>	<b>200%</b>
1	\$1,074	\$1,428	\$1,610	\$2,147
2	\$1,452	\$1,931	\$2,178	\$2,904
3	\$1,830	\$2,434	\$2,745	\$3,660
4	\$2,209	\$2,938	\$3,313	\$4,417
5	\$2,587	\$3,441	\$3,880	\$5,174
6	\$2,965	\$3,944	\$4,448	\$5,930
7	\$3,344	\$4,447	\$5,015	\$6,687
8	\$3,722	\$4,950	\$5,583	\$7,444
Additional Persons	\$379	\$504	\$568	\$757

<b>Household Size</b>	<b>250%</b>	<b>300%</b>	<b>400%</b>
1	\$2,684	\$3,220	\$4,294
2	\$3,630	\$4,355	\$5,807
3	\$4,575	\$5,490	\$7,320
4	\$5,521	\$6,625	\$8,834
5	\$6,467	\$7,760	\$10,347
6	\$7,413	\$8,895	\$11,860
7	\$8,359	\$10,030	\$13,374
8	\$9,305	\$11,165	\$14,887
Additional Persons	\$946	\$1,135	\$1,514

**Important!** If you need an interpreter or translation help with any MassHealth notice or form, or if you want a booklet/guide in your language, or if you have any questions about MassHealth, please call us at (800) 841-2900, TTY: (800) 497-4648 for people who are deaf, hard of hearing, or speech disabled. MassHealth does not discriminate on the basis of national origin.

[ITF Rev.10/12]

This booklet is also available in braille. To get a copy, please call MassHealth Customer Service at (800) 841-2900, TTY: (800) 497-4648.

