

Testimony on proposed amendments to 130 CMR 438.000 Continuous Skilled Nursing Agency (2/12/2021)

Introduction

Good Morning. My name is Abigail Newton and I am the Home Health and Independent Nurse Program Manager, Office of Long Term Services and Supports, at the Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS). I am here to present staff testimony on the proposed amendments to regulation 130 CMR 438.000: Continuous Skilled Nursing Agency. The notice for the public hearing and proposed regulations were originally published on the MassHealth website on January 22, 2021. EOHHS may adopt a final, revised version of this regulation taking into account relevant comments and any other practical alternatives that come to its attention. The amendments have a proposed effective date of no sooner than May 1, 2021.

Background

Regulation 130 CMR 438.000 governs MassHealth Continuous Skilled Nursing Agency providers and establishes program requirements and conditions of payment for services provided in a home health setting for continuous skilled nursing

Description of Proposed Amendment

The proposed amendment establishes a new regulation, 130 CMR 438.000: Continuous Skilled Nursing Agency

Previously, the MassHealth provider requirements for the provision of agency-based CSN services were located within 130 CMR 403.000: Home Health Agency services. EOHHS is proposing the promulgation of this new regulation as EOHHS seeks to create a new provider type for agency-based CSN services with separate and distinct provider requirements for the provision of these services.

This proposed program regulation sets forth the requirements for MassHealth-covered agency-based CSN services, which include, among other things, requirements covering the following areas:

1. Provider eligibility requirements to enroll as a MassHealth provider of agency-based CSN services;
2. Member eligibility requirements for the receipt of CSN services;
3. Prior Authorization (PA) requirements for the delivery of MassHealth-covered CSN services.
4. Administrative requirements related to the delivery of agency-based CSN services; and,
5. Other requirements related to the provision of MassHealth covered services, including recordkeeping and staffing requirements.

This new regulation is being proposed with an effective date of May 1, 2021.

This concludes my testimony.