Testimony on Proposed Amendments to 130 CMR 420.000: Dental Services

Proposed Amendments Effective (Emergency Basis) August 1, 2026

Date of Testimony: September 18, 2026

Introduction

Good afternoon. My name is Tuyen Vu, and I am the Deputy Director, Dental Operations and Contracts, at MassHealth within the Executive Office of Health and Human Services. I am here to present testimony on proposed amendments to 130 CMR 420.000.00: *Dental Services*. The proposed amendments were adopted on an emergency basis, effective August 1, 2026, to align with the State Fiscal Year 2027 General Appropriations Act.

Background

Regulation 130 CMR 420.000 governs the dental policies and requirements by state governmental units for participating MassHealth dental providers. All dental providers participating in MassHealth must comply with MassHealth regulations, including but not limited to 130 CMR 420.000 and 130 CMR 450.000: *Administrative and Billing Regulations*.

Description of Changes

The proposed amendments, in accordance with the State Fiscal Year 2027 General Appropriations Act, update 130 CMR 420.000 to impose a cap on adult coverage of dental services.

For MassHealth members 21 years of age and older who are not Department of Development Services clients, coverage of dental services is subject to a benefit year maximum of $1,750 per member. Benefit year 2027 is August 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027. Subsequent benefit years are proposed to be July 1–June 30 (e.g., benefit year 2028 is July 1, 2027–June 30, 2028).

1. Per the proposed amendments, coverage of services described in a. and b. below counts toward the benefit year maximum but is payable beyond the benefit year maximum.

    a. Initial complete denture services after full arch extractions.

    b. Services identified as payable beyond the benefit year maximum in MassHealth billing instructions, provider bulletins, or other written issuances.

2. The proposed amendments also enable MassHealth to identify services that do not count toward the benefit year maximum and are payable beyond the benefit year maximum, through subregulatory guidance.

Fiscal Impact

The estimated annual aggregate fiscal impact associated with the proposed amendments to 130 CMR 420.000 is a reduced spend of $68.5M gross / $34.2M net to the state fiscal year 2025 base spending of $553 million.

This concludes my testimony.

Thank you.