

Introduction

Good morning. My name is Jeannie Sosa, Program Coordinator for the Personal Care Attendant Program at the MassHealth Office of Long Term Services and Supports of the Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS). I am here to present testimony on proposed amendments to regulation 130 CMR 422.000: *Personal Care Attendant Services*.

Background

MassHealth's Personal Care Attendant (PCA) program helps people with permanent or chronic disabilities keep their independence, stay in the community, and manage their own personal care by providing funds and other support for hiring PCAs. The PCA program is self-directed, which means the MassHealth member is responsible for recruiting, hiring, training, scheduling, and managing their PCA. This includes reviewing and approving activities and hours worked, requesting approval for PCAs to work overtime, and terminating PCAs when necessary.

As part of Chapter 140 of the Acts of 2024, the Massachusetts legislature convened a range of policy makers and stakeholders to create a Personal Care Attendant Working Group to make recommendations regarding long-term sustainability and cost containment of the PCA program. The working group's final recommendations were sent for consideration to the Secretary of Administration and Finance, The House and Senate Committees on Ways and Means, and the Joint Committee on Health Care Financing in late November 2025. Recommendations made by this working group informed the proposed regulations we are here today to propose.

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MassHealth is committed to a sustainable PCA program that can continue to provide its members with fiscally responsible personal assistance services, while maintaining and enhancing quality of life.

Proposed Amendments

The proposed amendments to 130 CMR 422.000 update and clarify certain requirements of the MassHealth Personal Care Attendant (PCA) program. They

- clarify in the PCA Weekly Hour Limit for consumer safety that PCAs may not work more than 60 hours per week in the aggregate; and
- establish a maximum number of hours that can be authorized for meal preparation. No more than seven hours of meal prep per week will be authorized unless documentation of medical necessity is submitted to indicate a need for more time.

The proposed effective date of the proposed amendments is July 3, 2026. These program regulations are aligned with 101 CMR 309.000: *Rates for Certain Services for the Personal Care Attendant Program*.

This concludes my testimony. Thank you.