

Introduction

Good morning. My name is Tuyen Vu, and I am the Deputy Director, Dental Contracts & Operations at MassHealth within the Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS). I am here to present testimony on the proposed amendments to 101 CMR 314.00: *Rates for Dental Services*. The anticipated effective date of the proposed amendments is June 1, 2024.

Background

Regulation 101 CMR 314.00 establishes the rates used by state governmental units to make payments to eligible providers for dental services rendered to publicly-aided individuals. MassHealth is the primary purchaser. The MassHealth dental population is split into two groups: the "Early Periodic Screening, Diagnosis & Treatment (EPSDT)" designation covers individuals under 21 years of age, and the "Allowed" designation covers individuals 21 years of age and older. In addition to licensed dentists, MassHealth members can receive services from other eligible providers including dental schools, dental clinics, public health dental hygienists, community health centers (CHCs), hospital-licensed health centers (HLHCs), and hospital outpatient departments.

Description of Changes

The proposed amendments update rates for certain dental services as described below.

A prospective cost adjustment factor (CAF) of 2.65% is applied to increase rates for certain highly utilized adult preventive and diagnostic services, codes D0140, D0150, D0210, D0272, D0274, and D0330. The 2.65% CAF is also applied to the rates for extraction and palliative services, codes D7140 and D9110, respectively. The base period for this CAF is quarter one of calendar year 2024 and the prospective rate period of quarter two of calendar year 2024 through quarter one of calendar year 2026.

A retrospective CAF of 13.36% is applied to certain other highly utilized adult rates for periodic oral examination, code D0120, and adult prophylaxis, code D1110. The same CAF is also applied to increase rates for three Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment

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(EPSDT) services, codes D3310, D3320 and D3330. This maintains parity for adult and EPSDT endodontic service rates. The base period for this CAF is quarter four of calendar year 2021 and the prospective rate period of quarter two of calendar year 2024 through quarter one of calendar year 2026. All the proposed CAF calculations use the optimistic forecast of the Massachusetts-specific Consumer Price Index (CPI) Spring 2023 developed by S&P Global Market Intelligence.

In addition, EOHHS proposes setting adult rates for composite restorative services, codes D2391, D2392, D2393 and D2394, at the same adult rates as comparable amalgam restorative services to establish rate parity.

Finally, EOHHS proposes to establish rates for certain codes currently set at individual consideration (I.C.). This proposed change includes new adult and EPSDT rates for codes D0180, D0190, D0191, D0273, D4346, D9248, and D9930. This proposed change also includes new EPSDT rates for codes D0145, D5225, D5226, D8010, D8020, D8030, and D8040. All other adult and EPSDT rates will remain at their current levels.

EOHHS is proposing these changes, subject to federal approval, to ensure that payment rates are consistent with efficiency, economy, and quality of care and satisfy the requirements of M.G.L. 118E, sections 13C and 13D.

Fiscal Impact

The estimated annual aggregate fiscal impact of the proposed amendments is \$9.9 million relative to the FY2022 base spending of \$500.2 million.

This concludes my testimony.

Thank you.