

Testimony on Amendments to 101 CMR 343.00  
Rates for Hospice Services  
Effective 10/1/2025  
April 3, 2026—1:00 p.m.

### **Introduction**

Good afternoon. My name is April Miranda, Program Manager for Home Health, Hospice, and Therapy programs at the Office of Long Term Services and Supports (OLTSS) in the Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS). I am here to present testimony on proposed amendments to 101 CMR 343.00: *Rates for Hospice Services*. The anticipated effective date of the proposed amendments is for dates of services on or after October 1, 2025.

### **Background**

Regulation 101 CMR 343.00 includes rates of payment for the following five types of hospice services: (1) Routine Home Care (RHC), including nursing services, medical social services, and counseling which is divided into two rates based on time periods (1-60 days and 61+ days); (2) Service Intensity Add-On rate, which is intended for RHC services provided by social workers or registered nurses in the last seven days of a member's life and is in addition to the standard RHC rate; (3) Continuous Home Care, whereby at least eight hours of care in a 24 hour period is provided; (4) Inpatient Respite Care, in which the patient enters an inpatient facility for a short period in order to give respite to attending family members; and (5) General Inpatient Care, used when other settings prove inadequate for problems such as pain management or control of other symptoms.

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) require that states' Medicaid rates for hospice services be reviewed annually, with an effective date of October 1 of each year. Additionally, Massachusetts General Law Chapter 118E, Section 13D, requires EOHHS to establish and biennially review rates to be paid by governmental units for health care services and social service programs. The proposed amendments to this regulation are in accordance with these requirements.

### **Description of Proposed Amendments**

EOHHS has reviewed CMS' Hospice Wage Index and Payment Rate Update for Federal FY 2026, and has applied CMS methodology to calculate the proposed MassHealth Hospice rates. The percentage changes in individual rates between last year and this year range from -0.92% to 10.57% for compliant rates and -0.93% to 10.57% for non-compliant rates.

### **Fiscal Impact**

The estimated aggregate annual fiscal impact for MassHealth is an increase of \$289,102 (4.38%), assuming all providers are compliant, and an increase of \$277,100 (4.37%), assuming all providers are non-compliant.

This concludes my testimony.

Thank you.