



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Executive Office of Health and Human Services  
Office of Medicaid  
One Ashburton Place, Room 1109  
Boston, Massachusetts 02108



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April 8, 2016

Mr. William F. Welch  
Senate Clerk  
State House, Room 335  
Boston, MA 02133

Mr. Steven T. James  
House Clerk  
State House, Room 145  
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Mr. Welch and Mr. James,

Section 227 of Chapter 165 of the Acts of 2014 (Section 227) requires that the Office of Medicaid ("MassHealth") suspend MassHealth benefits for inmates of penal institutions and reactivate benefits if the individual is admitted for an inpatient hospitalization or upon release from incarceration, subject to all required federal approvals.

Section 227 also requires the Medicaid Director to submit a plan to implement this section to the House and Senate Chairs of the Committees on Ways and Means and the Chairs of the Joint Committee on Health Care Financing. That report was submitted to the legislature on February 24, 2015 and can be found on the MassHealth web site at:

<http://www.mass.gov/eohhs/docs/masshealth/research/legislature-reports/suspension-status-for-incarcerated-members-report-02-24-15.pdf>.

Section 227 further requires that we provide you an annual status report that you, in turn, will forward to the House and Senate chairs of the Committees on Ways and Means. Some of the information required in this annual status report is not yet collected as we are still enhancing system functionalities. We hope to provide additional data in the next annual report. That said, the following report provides the statistics required by Section 227 that can be collected and reported.

**Status Report on Efforts to Enroll and Cover Persons in Correctional Facilities during FY 2016**

MassHealth has worked collaboratively with the County Sheriff Departments and the Department of Correction (DOC) to implement a process effective July 1, 2015 that addresses two key components:

- Medicaid coverage for individuals within the correctional system who are provided services in a hospital inpatient setting during their incarceration period; and



- An enhanced pre-release process for the approval or activation of MassHealth medical benefits for those who qualify and are scheduled to be released.

Working in partnership with DOC and the County Sheriffs, MassHealth has developed a streamlined application process specifically for use by correctional facilities to ensure expeditious access to MassHealth benefits for inpatient services and upon release. We are also developing enhancements to the Health Information Exchange (HIX) eligibility system in order to further automate the process.

MassHealth currently tracks the number of cases processed for inpatient benefits and cases where MassHealth benefits are activated upon reentry to the community, as well as the referral source for these cases (see charts below).

Case Type	Total Received 7/1/2015 – 2/8/2016
Inpatient	1150
Pre-Release	2937
Transition*	23
<b>Total</b>	<b>4110</b>

\* These are individuals who receive inpatient care and are also scheduled for pre-release.

Referral Source	Total Received 7/1/2015 – 2/8/2016
DOC	1697
County Houses of Corrections	2413
<b>Total</b>	<b>4110</b>

The average turnaround timeframe for these cases is 1.75 days.

The total MassHealth FY16 expenditure through December 2015 for providing inpatient services to this population is approximately \$3.1 million. Of that, approximately \$2.7 million was claimed as Federal Financial Participation (FFP) and returned to the General Fund. This results in a net cost to the state of \$400,000.

Total FY16 Spend (through December 2015)	FFP	Net cost
\$3.1 million	\$2.7 million	\$400,000

We will be more than happy to keep you apprised of the progress of this initiative and answer any questions you may have. Thank you for your continuing commitment to the MassHealth program. If you have any questions about this report, please contact me at (617) 573-1770 or John May at (617) 573-1763.

Sincerely,

Daniel Tsai  
Assistant Secretary, MassHealth

cc: Marylou Sudders, Secretary, Executive Office of Health & Human Services