

**Notice of Submission of a Request to Amend the MassHealth Section 1115 Demonstration
and Related State Plan Amendments:
Summary and Public Comment Period**

The Massachusetts Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS) announces its intent to submit a Request to Amend the MassHealth Section 1115 Demonstration to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) on June 26, 2017, and related State Plan Amendments (SPAs) thereafter.

Public Comment Period:

EOHHS will accept comments on the proposed Amendment through 5:00 p.m. on June 12, 2017. Written comments may be delivered by email or mail. By email, please send comments to kaela.konefal@state.ma.us, and write “Comments for Demonstration Amendment” in the subject line. By mail, please send comments to:

Kaela Konefal
EOHHS Office of Medicaid
One Ashburton Place, 11th Floor
Boston, MA 02108.

Comments must be received by June 12, 2017 in order to be considered.

The amendment documents may be obtained on the MassHealth 1115 Demonstration website: www.mass.gov/eohhs/gov/departments/masshealth/masshealth-and-health-care-reform.html. Additional updates and final submissions to CMS will also be posted on this website. Paper copies of the amendment documents may be obtained in person by request from 9:00 a.m.–5 p.m. at the following address.

MassHealth Publications Unit
100 Hancock Street, 6th Floor
Quincy, Massachusetts 02171

Background

The MassHealth Section 1115 Demonstration provides federal authority for Massachusetts to expand eligibility to individuals who are not otherwise Medicaid or CHIP eligible, offer services that are not typically covered by Medicaid, and use innovative service delivery systems that improve care, increase efficiency, and reduce costs. The 1115 Demonstration is authorized through June 30, 2022. EOHHS is requesting an amendment to the Demonstration to make the changes summarized below to ensure the sustainability of the MassHealth program while retaining access for vulnerable populations.

Summary

Alignment of CarePlus benefits for non-emergency transportation

Massachusetts is requesting a waiver of assurance of transportation in order to enable Massachusetts to provide benefit packages to individuals enrolled in MassHealth CarePlus that do not include non-emergency transportation, except for transportation to substance use disorder (SUD) services. This authority would better align MassHealth CarePlus coverage with commercial products in the state and subsidized plans offered through the Massachusetts Health Connector to individuals at similar income levels, while maintaining coverage of transportation to SUD services confirms Massachusetts' commitment to combatting the opioid addiction crisis.

Discontinue providing provisional eligibility for certain adult applicants

Under the current 1115 Demonstration, if MassHealth is unable to verify eligibility through federal and state data hubs, or if the information provided by an applicant is not reasonably compatible with the information available through the data hubs, MassHealth can enroll an individual for a 90-day "provisional eligibility period," during which MassHealth will require further verifications from the individual.

Based on our experience administering the provisional eligibility program in the past few years, the Commonwealth is withdrawing its request for expenditure authority for 90-day provisional eligibility for adults ages 21 and older when income is unverified, except for the following populations:

- pregnant women with attested MAGI income at or below 200% FPL;
- adults 21 through 64 years of age who are HIV positive and have income at or below 200% FPL; and
- individuals with breast and cervical cancer who are under 65 years of age and have income at or below 250% FPL

Children under age 21 will continue to be eligible for provisional coverage pending verification of income. Provisional eligibility will otherwise continue to be granted for adults pending verification of non-income based eligibility factors.

Technical change of authority to continue coverage for former foster care youth

At CMS request, Massachusetts is submitting a technical request to shift authority from the State Plan to the 1115 demonstration to continue existing coverage of certain former foster care youth. Massachusetts, like several other states, provides coverage for former foster care youth who currently reside in Massachusetts but who were residing in a different state as of age 18 or when they "aged out" of foster care. Based on prior CMS guidance and approval, this coverage is currently provided under State Plan authority. However, in CMS' November 2016 regulation and bulletin, CMS indicated that its prior guidance was incorrect and instructed states that wish to

continue to cover this population to seek Section 1115 demonstration authority instead. Therefore, Massachusetts is requesting this change in response to CMS' instruction.