**Summary on the use of MassHealth Funded In-Home Nursing Services for Individuals Residing in DDS Group Homes:**

**Purpose:**

The purpose of this summary is to provide a reminder to DDS group home providers that it is prohibited to allow for the delivery of MassHealth-reimbursed home health services, including nursing and home health aide services, when the DDS group home is funded for services that duplicate these supports.

In certain DDS residences it may be appropriate to work with DDS consumers to obtain additional supports such as direct-care nursing through a home health agency which includes Visiting Nursing Agencies (VNA). These services must be coordinated to ensure there is no duplication of DDS and MassHealth-funded services.

**Guidelines:**

1. Residential providers are required to utilize all DDS-funded direct-care nursing supports within their contract before seeking additional MassHealth-funded nursing services.
2. If residential providers require outside nursing for the purpose of filling DDS-funded staffing vacancies within the group home, the provider agency may contract directly with the home health agency/VNA to pay for nursing services. MassHealth must not be billed.
3. If a DDS consumer requires the use of nursing services above and beyond what DDS is funding within the residence, it may be appropriate to support the individual in seeking additional nursing services referred by their prescribing provider and funded by MassHealth.
4. If there are any questions regarding the type and/or level of staffing that DDS currently funds within a group home or regarding the appropriate use of MassHealth-funded services, please contact the local DDS Area Director or ABI-MFP Director.