



Health Safety Net (HSN) Updates

**Massachusetts Health Care Training Forum
February 2022**

Agenda



- Hospital Rate Setting
- New CHC Covered Code List
- CHCs – G2025
- Reminders
 - Carrier Codes
 - Billing Updates

Hospital Rate Setting

- Proposed FY22 rates have been sent to providers for their review and approval
- Upon conclusion of the review period, HSN will post finalized rates to the payment system
- Providers are encouraged to look for future billing reminders and updates which will instruct providers once final rates have been posted
 - <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/information-about-hsn-provider-guides-and-billing-updates>

CHC Covered Code/Payment List



- The Health Safety Net recently updated it's CHC covered code and payment list effective for dates of service beginning 1/1/2021
- HSN changed the format of the list to more closely align with MassHealth's sub-chapter 6 (coverage) lists
- HSN will not publish code definitions for it's covered services
 - Providers are instructed to obtain code definitions from the American Medical Association's Current Procedural Terminology codebook as well as the Healthcare Common Procedure Code System (HCPCS) Level II codebook
 - <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/payment-information-for-chcs>

Carrier Code Reminder

- Carrier codes for Medicare Primary Claims should use the Medicare Carrier codes
 - Medicare Part A = 0084000
 - Medicare Part B = 0085000
- All Carrier Codes to be used are listed here:
<https://www.mass.gov/guides/masshealth-all-provider-manual-appendices#-appendix-c:-third-party-liability-codes->

CHC-G2025



- CMS adopted procedure code G2025 to allow FQHC providers to bill Medicare for distant site telehealth services for dates of service beginning 7/1/2020 through the conclusion of the federal PHE
- G2025 is not a covered service code for the Health Safety Net
- For recipients with both Medicare and Health Safety Net, CHCs are instructed to bill HSN for any allowable remaining patient balance using the most appropriate payable evaluation and management procedure code as listed on the CHC coverage/payment code list
 - <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/payment-information-for-chcs>

Important



- Billing updates are posted and can be found at:
<https://www.mass.gov/service-details/information-about-hsn-provider-guides-and-billing-updates>
- For more information, please contact (800) 609-7232 or hsnhelpdesk@state.ma.us

QUESTIONS?



MassHealth Updates

**Massachusetts Health Care Training Forum
Winter 2022**

Agenda

- MassHealth's Response to COVID-19 Operations Update
- End of Year Tax Filing
- MAhealthconnector.org System Updates
- Immigration Reminders
- MassHealth Health Plan Options
- 2022 Social Security Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA)
- Medicare Savings Program (MSP) Expansion: Phase 2
- MassHealth Customer Service Update
- Recertification of Certified Application Counselors (CACs)
- Resources

MassHealth Response to COVID-19 Update

Updated MassHealth COVID-19 Response: MEC



- All MassHealth Enrollment Centers (MECs) are open but for the health and safety of all, we encourage virtual walk-ins via the online appointment service

MassHealth Online Appointment Service

- **Now available**, visit the [MassHealth online appointment service](#) or scan this code for application assistance that can be completed online
- The Online Portal will let member's schedule:
 - phone appointments
 - video appointments: require valid working email address
- Schedule appointments for the following services:
 - assistance with new applications & renewal forms
 - reporting a change to address, family size, income, pregnancy, newborn or other
 - verifications
 - general questions



MassHealth Operations Update: MEC

- Chelsea MEC location is closed as of January 20, 2022

MEC Locations are open but for the health and safety of all, we are encouraging virtual walk-ins via the online appointment system

- Charlestown
529 Main Street
Charlestown, MA 02129
- Springfield
88 Industry Avenue, Suite D
Springfield, MA 01104
- Taunton
21 Spring Street, Suite 4
Taunton, MA 02780
- Tewksbury
367 East Street
Tewksbury, MA 01876
- Quincy (MassHealth Central Office)
100 Hancock Street, 6th floor
Quincy, MA 02171

Response to COVID-19 Health Emergency

The COVID-19 national public health emergency declaration was extended, effective January 16, 2022. This extension is for 90 days.

- MassHealth will maintain coverage for most individuals who have health coverage as of March 18, 2020, and for all individuals newly approved for health coverage during the COVID-19 Federal Public Health Emergency (FPHE), through the end of the month in which the FPHE ends
- These individuals will not lose coverage, except for limited circumstances. For example, coverage will end if an individual*:
 - requests termination of eligibility
 - is no longer a resident of Massachusetts, or
 - is deceased

*Note: Not an exhaustive list. For more information, go to [Updated MassHealth Response to COVID-19](#)

End of Year Tax Filing Process

Health Coverage and Taxes

Federal Tax Filing

- Under the Affordable Care Act (ACA), health insurers (including MassHealth) who provide Minimum Essential Coverage (MEC) to individuals during the tax year are required to provide proof of health insurance to those individuals
- Implemented in 2019, the tax law repealed the federal individual mandate for individuals
 - The repeal of the federal individual mandate means individuals will not have to show that they had health insurance coverage when filing their federal taxes
- ACA regulations require MassHealth to provide members with proof of insurance for Tax Year 2021
 - MassHealth will mail the 1095-B Form to members

Health Coverage and Taxes (continued)

State Tax Filing

- The Massachusetts Individual Mandate is still in effect
 - Massachusetts requires most adults 18 and over to purchase health insurance if it is affordable to them and meets Minimum Creditable Coverage (MCC) standards
 - Individuals will have to provide proof of their enrollment in health coverage on their state taxes
 - Failure to have health insurance for the entire year may result in a tax penalty
 - Individuals may be able to get an exemption if Minimum Creditable Coverage (MCC) is not affordable for them or for other special circumstances or hardships

Overview of Tax Forms

1099 – HC	1095 – B
<p>Form 1099-HC is a Massachusetts state tax document which is sent to members by their health insurance carriers. The 1099-HC form shows:</p>	<p>Form 1095-B is a federal tax document:</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Which months during the calendar year members were enrolled in a health plan that meets the state’s MCC requirements for at least 15 days 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Form shows which months during the calendar year members were enrolled in a health plan that meets the federal MEC requirements for at least 1 day
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individual member had income greater than 150% FPL at any point in the 2021 calendar year 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Form 1095-B will be mailed to certain MassHealth members; duplicates can be requested
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The individual was at least 18 years old as of 12/31/2021 	

Getting 1095-B and 1099-HC Forms for MassHealth Members



- MassHealth will mail the **Form 1095-B** and 1099-HC to members starting 1/31/22
- Members can get a duplicate of their Form 1095-B:
 - Online at [Masshealthtaxforms.com](https://masshealthtaxforms.com), after January 31, 2022, to view and print the Form or
 - Call MassHealth at 1-866-682-6745; TTY: (800) 497-4648 to request a hard copy
- Members with questions about why they received the Form MA 1099-HC, how to get their Form 1095-B from MassHealth, or if they need a duplicate copy, should contact MassHealth at (866) 682-6745, TTY: (800) 497-4648 for people who are deaf, hard of hearing, or speech disabled



Members with Overlapping Health Connector and MassHealth Coverage



- There are situations when a member can get tax credits even though they have other coverage. They will receive two 1095 forms showing the overlapping coverage for those months
 - For example, people who transitioned between MassHealth and Health Connector programs or those who received retroactive MassHealth eligibility
- In general, if a member thinks their overlapping coverage was valid, they can report Health Connector coverage only for that month when filing their taxes
 - They do not need a corrected form from MassHealth, even if they do not report the MassHealth coverage on their taxes
 - MassHealth must tell a member if they had MassHealth coverage for at least one day in a month, but the member must decide if that coverage means they must repay tax credits

Members with Overlapping Health Connector and MassHealth Coverage (continued)



- IRS regulations say that if there is overlapping coverage with Medicaid (MassHealth) and a subsidized plan with APTCs/ConnectorCare through the Health Connector, the consumer will not have to pay back subsidies for that first overlapping month of coverage following an eligibility change. *However*, they may have to repay the APTCs starting the second month after the eligibility determination.

Important Dates in 2022



Dates	Action
Mid-Late January	1095-A forms sent to all Health Connector members enrolled in a QHP (including ConnectorCare members)
Late January	MassHealth will mail the Form 1095-B to certain members. Members can access their duplicate Form by going to Masshealthtaxforms.com or request a hard copy by calling MassHealth
March 1st	Individuals are asked to report any corrections to 1095 or 1099-HC forms to the Health Connector and/or MassHealth and new forms to be sent out prior to the tax filing deadline
April 19th	State and Federal Tax filing deadline

Free Tax Assistance

- **VITA**: The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program offers free tax help to people who generally make \$57,000 or less, persons with disabilities and limited English speaking taxpayers who need assistance in preparing their own tax returns. IRS-certified volunteers provide free basic income tax return preparation with electronic filing to qualified individuals
- **TCE**: The Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE) program offers free tax help for all taxpayers, particularly those who are 60 years of age and older, specializing in questions about pensions and retirement-related issues unique to seniors. The IRS-certified volunteers who provide tax counseling are often retired individuals associated with non-profit organizations that receive grants from the IRS
- **AARP Foundation Tax-Aide**: offers free tax help to anyone especially for those age 50 and older who can't afford a tax preparation service. IRS-certified volunteers understand that retirement or other life changes may make tax filing a little more complicated. AARP membership is not required

Helpful Tax Resources

- Free Tax Return Preparation for Qualifying Taxpayers
<https://www.irs.gov/individuals/free-tax-return-preparation-for-you-by-volunteers>
- Affordable Care Act (ACA) Tax Provisions
<http://www.irs.gov/Affordable-Care-Act>
- Individual Shared Responsibility Provision
<https://www.irs.gov/Affordable-Care-Act/Individuals-and-Families/Individual-Shared-Responsibility-Provision>
- Health Connector tax resources
<https://www.mahealthconnector.org/taxes>

MAhealthconnector.org

System Updates

- **Reporting Income for Lottery and Gambling Winnings**
- **Transitional Medical Assistance (TMA)**
- **Health Equity Data Collection (related to race, ethnicity, and language)**

Lottery and Gambling Income

The Tax Cuts & Jobs Act introduced Modified Adjusted Gross Income (MAGI) based methodology changes to count the qualified lottery and gambling winnings income in MAGI based income calculation.

- The act requires that lottery and gambling winnings of \$80,000 or greater, which are received in a single payout, be counted not only in the month received, but over up to 120 months
- This is applicable only for qualified lottery or gambling winnings received beginning on, or after, January 1, 2018

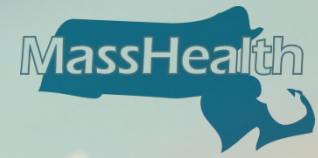
Lottery and Gambling Income (continued)

Notice Updates

- Notice Type: Approvals, Terminations and Denials
- New text are added to report one-time lottery and gambling winnings over \$80k includes the following:
 - Date on which the qualified winnings will no longer be counted
 - Opportunity to apply for a hardship exemption, including the process for applying
 - Information on how to apply and enroll in a Qualified Health Plan
- Request for Information (RFI): Proof of lottery and gambling winnings have been added to the list of verification items

MAhealthconnector.org

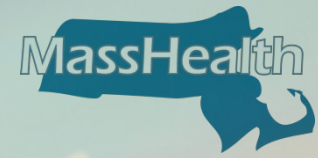
System Updates (slide 1 of 4)



- In R24, the following updates will align with the federal tax law:
 - A new checkbox for lottery and gambling winnings has been added to the Income section for the applicant or member to input income details such as:
 - Amount
 - Income Effective Date
 - Frequency
- Lottery or gambling winnings will be displayed on the following screens:
 - Income screen and the Income Change screen on the Account Dashboard
 - Current Income Details screen and Income Summary screen
 - Parent Mentor Compensation text added in the tooltip on the Current Income screen
 - Review Application Screens
 - Application Summary Tab for Eligibilities

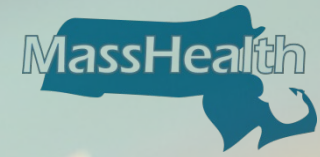
MAhealthconnector.org

System Updates (slide 2 of 4)



- Lottery or gambling winnings will be used in program determination:
 - The system will calculate the current and projected income for the member(s) based on the amount received along with the lottery and gambling winnings income
 - If a member claims one-time only lottery and gambling winnings and the amount is over \$80k, the system will start using this amount in the current income calculation over multiple months depending on the amount
 - Winnings will be used in calculating projected income and tax household FPL percentage
- The system will redetermine eligibilities of the member based on the One-Time Only Income details (this includes other sources of One-Time Only Income as well)

MAhealthconnector.org System Updates (slide 3 of 4)




Current Income

[More information on Income Sources](#)

Do not include any extra unemployment income benefits related to the COVID-19 pandemic when reporting your regular Unemployment Income (UI).

When you see a star (*), you must complete the field.

When you see an , roll over it with mouse or select it by pressing tab with keyboard to get definitions and learn more.

Select Income Sources

Does June Rashid have any income? * 

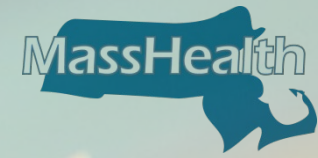
Yes No

Check all that apply. *

- Job
- Self-Employment
- Social Security Benefits
- Unemployment
- Retirement or Pension
- Capital Gains
- Interest, Dividends, or Other Investment Income
- Rental or Royalty Income
- Farming or Fishing Income
- Alimony Received
- Lottery and Gambling Winnings
- Other Income

Save and Continue


MAhealthconnector.org System Updates (slide 4 of 4)



Current Income


[More information on Income Sources](#)

When you see a star (*), you must complete the field.

When you see an , roll over it with mouse or select it by pressing tab with keyboard to get definitions and learn more.

Lottery and Gambling Winnings Income 1

How much will June Rashid get from lottery and gambling winnings?

Non-Cash prizes are not counted as "Qualified Lottery and Gambling Winnings". Only tell us about the Lottery and Gambling Winnings amount. Please do not incorporate any losses while entering the Lottery and Gambling Winnings amount. 

Lottery and Gambling Winnings amount *

\$ 80000

Income Effective Date (MM/DD/YYYY) *

01/01/2021

How often does June Rashid get this amount? *

One time only

Select One

One time only

Weekly

Every two weeks

Twice a month

Monthly

Yearly

Add Another

How often does June Rashid get this amount? *

One time only

Which month and year did June Rashid earn this income?

Month *

Year *

March

2021

Select

January

February

March

April

May

June

July

August

September

October

November

December

Save and Continue

Transitional Medical Assistance (TMA)

Transitional Medical Assistance (TMA) Updates



- Transitional Medical Assistance (TMA) benefits are provided to parents and caretaker relatives (of children younger than 19 years of age) and their children if the household income has gone up because a household member has gone back to work or gotten a raise
- Federal regulations require MassHealth to consider any change in the eligibility information that increases the MAGI FPL above 133%
- To comply with the federal regulations, TMA eligibility will now account for increased MAGI FPL% for MassHealth members due to any reason such as unearned income increase, change in household composition, or other circumstances
- R24 include the following system updates:
 - New functionality will expand TMA criteria and determine TMA eligibility for increased MAGI FPL due to any change in circumstances such as:
 - unearned income increase
 - change in MAGI household composition
 - reverting to HUB income data

Transitional Medical Assistance (TMA) Updates (continued)



- The system will calculate the TMA period start date based on certain events, including:
 - Event date or paper application date (if available)
 - Program determination submission date (in case of any event change)
 - Income Effective Date (in case of any change in income)
 - New effective date question for all unearned Income Sources

MassHealth Disability

- On 2/1, HIX will display a new banner on the Account Dashboard for certain MassHealth members who have a determination based on Disability
- The new banner will display for members ages 19-64 years who have MassHealth CommonHealth, Standard, or a Spenddown determination
- The banner and pop up is informational. If a member has a Spenddown determination, this will be displayed as “Deductible.” It will only display if the member is in an active Spenddown period or if the Spenddown period has not been expired for longer than 6 months

MassHealth Disability: Sample Screenshot



The screenshot shows the MassHealth CONNECTOR website interface. At the top, there are navigation tabs: 'Manage Customer', 'Create Customer Profile', 'My Account', and 'Get Assistance'. Below these are utility icons for a shopping cart (0), Accessibility, Language (English), Notes, and a user profile for 'Cristin' with a 'Sign Out' button.

The main content area displays a user profile for 'Joe' with an account reference ID of RefID_1545076232329 and a 'View Profile' link. To the right, it shows 'Application Status - 2022' as 'Submitted' with an update timestamp of 01/25/2022 at 02:58PM CST. A red alert icon indicates '0 New Alerts'.

An 'Additional Coverage' pop-up window is overlaid on the screen. It contains the following information:

Member	Eligible For	Start Date
Joe (DOB: [redacted] Medicaid ID [redacted])	Deductible (You may have to meet a deductible to become eligible for MassHealth CommonHealth. For more information about the deductible call 1-800-841-2900.)	01/09/2022

A blue arrow points from the 'Additional Coverage' pop-up to a table entry in the background. The table entry is:

Member	Eligible For	Start Date
Joe Doe	ConnectorCare Plan Type 2B (Advance...	03/01/2022

Health Equity Data (related to race, ethnicity, and language)



The Commonwealth is focused on understanding health disparities and health inequities among Health Connector and MassHealth members; updates have been made to the online application at MAhealthconnector.org to incorporate improvements in health equity data collection.

- The percent of MassHealth members for whom race and ethnicity is known is low, which makes it more challenging to understand and address health disparities
- As part of efforts to address this challenge, starting December 2021, the following updates have been made to the Race, Ethnicity, and Language options in the online application at MAhealthconnector.org

Health Equity Data (related to race, ethnicity, and language) (continued)



- Ethnicity & Race (optional)

Please help us support equity initiatives

MassHealth and the Health Connector are committed to providing equitable care for all members regardless of race, ethnicity, or language spoken.

Please consider completing these questions to help us meet your language and cultural needs. Know that your response is voluntary, confidential, will not impact your eligibility, nor be used for any discriminatory purpose.

While providing ethnicity and race information is optional, it is strongly encouraged. If you do not want to share this information, please select the "Choose not to answer" option. If no selection is made, the application will record your ethnicity and race as "unknown".

Is Kim CAC of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin?

Yes No Choose not to answer

Race: (check all that apply.)

- American Indian or Alaska Native
- Asian Indian
- Black or African American
- Chinese
- Filipino
- Guamanian or Chamorro
- Japanese
- Korean
- Native Hawaiian
- Other Asian
- Other Pacific Islander
- Samoan
- Vietnamese
- White or Caucasian
- Other:

Enter other race

Choose not to answer

- A new text box will inform users of why and how MassHealth and the Health Connector will use this data
- The option of “*Choose not to answer*” has been added to the list of options for questions related to Race, Ethnicity, and Language. These questions continue to be optional, and applicants can continue an application even if no option is selected

Immigration Reminders

Eligibility Requirement

MassHealth and the Health Connector require verification of the following eligibility factors to make an eligibility determination:

- Income
- Social Security Number
- Residency
- Citizenship
- **Immigration Status**
- Incarceration
- Non-custodial Parent Info (MassHealth only)
- American Indian/Alaska Native (Health Connector only)

Citizens and Noncitizens

Citizen

- An individual who is:
- Born in the U.S. or its territories (Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and Guam)
- Born to a parent who is a U.S. Citizen
- A Naturalized Citizen
- A US National

Noncitizens: Lawfully Present Immigrant

- A Lawfully Present Immigrant is an individual who fits into 1 of 3 categories:
- Qualified Noncitizens – (QLP), includes Protected Noncitizens
- Qualified Noncitizens Barred - (QAB)
- Nonqualified Individuals Lawfully Present – (ILP)

Citizens and Noncitizens (continued)

Noncitizens that are not described on the previous slide as Immigrants Lawfully Present (ILP) may be described as:

Persons Residing Under Color of Law (PRUCOL)

Individuals with an immigration status not described as Lawfully Present, but have applied for an adjustment of status through the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS).

- PRUCOL status may also be relevant for individuals who have not applied for an adjustment of status (e.g. people with an indefinite stay of deportation or an indefinite voluntary departure)

Other Noncitizens

- Individuals with an immigration status that is not described as Lawfully Present or Nonqualified PRUCOL

Who May Qualify for MassHealth?

- U.S. Citizen or U.S. National
- Lawfully Present Immigrants - three categories
 - Qualified Noncitizen (including Protected Noncitizens) - QLP
 - Certain Qualified Noncitizen Barred - QAB
 - Certain Nonqualified Individuals Lawfully Present - ILP
- **Certain Nonqualified Persons Residing Under Color of Law (PRUCOL)**
- Certain Other Noncitizens
- As a condition of eligibility, an applicant or member must be a resident of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and meet other universal eligibility requirements
- Any applicant confined even if not convicted is not eligible for MassHealth

What Types of MassHealth Coverage can PRUCOL Get?



- There are three types of MassHealth that people with PRUCOL may receive:
 - MassHealth Family Assistance is available to adults and children with household incomes up to 300% FPL
 - MassHealth CommonHealth is available to children who are disabled and young adults (19 and 20 year olds) who are disabled and have incomes up to 150% FPL
 - MassHealth Standard is available for pregnant individuals up to 200% FPL

Reasonable Opportunity

- MassHealth provides all applicants and members a reasonable opportunity period to provide satisfactory documentary evidence of citizenship and identity or immigration status if MassHealth's electronic data matches are unable to verify the applicant's citizenship or immigration status. The reasonable period begins on, and will extend 90 days from, the date on which an applicant or member receives a reasonable opportunity notice
- The reasonable opportunity is available to all applicants or members

Reasonable Opportunity Extension

- Applicants or members who have made a good faith effort to resolve inconsistencies or obtain verification of citizenship and identity or immigration status may receive a 90-day extension
- Requests for a reasonable opportunity extension must be made before the expiration of the verification time period
- The 90-day extension will be added to the end of the 90 days from the original reasonable opportunity timeframe

Verifications of PRUCOL

- **The most common document to demonstrate PRUCOL is the I-797 (or I-797C) Notice of Action issued by USCIS.** I-797s may indicate a PRUCOL status such as:
 - Pending application for Withholding of Deportation or Withholding of Removal, under the INA or under the CAT who has either not been granted Employment Authorization, OR is under 14 and has not had an application for Withholding of Deportation or Withholding of Removal pending for at least 180 days
 - For PRUCOL status including those who have applied for a status that has not yet been approved. Thus, these documents may serve as proof that someone is PRUCOL
 - DACA applicants may be eligible for an Employment Authorization Card (EAC) but will still be considered a PRUCOL for MassHealth eligibility purposes. Always check the “Category Code” to determine what the immigration status of the individual is

Example of Notice of Action (I-797)/Other – With Alien Number



Department of Homeland Security
U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

I-797A, Notice of Action

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

APPLICATION NUMBER IIR-00-000-000000	PERMITS May 12, 2004	PERMITS July 24, 2004	CATEGORY I-797	APPLICATION TO EXTEND/CHANGE IMMIGRATORY STATUS WORKER SAMPLE, SAMPLE WORKER SAMPLE, SAMPLE
SAMPLE, SAMPLE 1234 MAIN ST ANYTOWN, ANY STATE, 00000			Notice Type: Approval Notice Class: N2 Valid From 05/24/2004 to 11/23/2007	

The above application for extension of temporary stay is approved. The temporary stay of the above applicant is extended to the date indicated above. No option Form I-765 is required.

If the applicant has an authorized representative, their notice has also been mailed to the representative.

Please read the back of this form carefully for more information.

This form is not a visa and may not be used in place of a visa.

Please see the additional information on the back. You will be notified separately about any other cases you filed.

BERKSHIRE SERVICE CENTER
U. S. INSIS. & NAT. SERVICE
P. O. BOX 42122
LINCOLN NE 68501-2122
Customer Service Telephone: 800-375-5282
Form I-797A (Rev. 09/27/03)

0000000000 00

Receipt Number IIR-00-000-000000
Immigration and
Naturalization Service
I-94
Departure Record Petitioner:

Detach This Half for Personal Records

Receipt # I-94# 00000000-00

NAME SAMPLE, SAMPLE
CLASS N2
VALID FROM 05/24/2004 UNTIL 11/23/2007

PETITIONER: SAMPLE, SAMPLE
1234 MAIN ST
ANYTOWN, ANY STATE, 00000

Form I-797A (Rev. 09/27/03)

I-94 NUMBER →

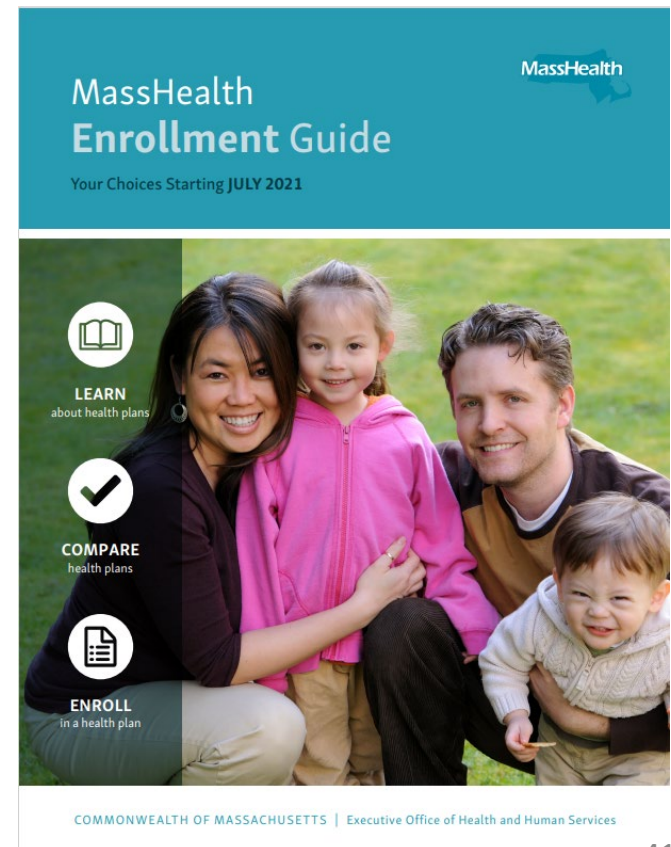
I- 797 A

MassHealth Health Plan Options

MassHealth Health Plans

On January 1, 2022, MassHealth members whose Primary Care Provider (PCP) joined an Accountable Care Organization (ACO) plan, or whose PCP will be changing from one ACO to another will receive an *“Important News about Your MassHealth Health Plan”* letter.

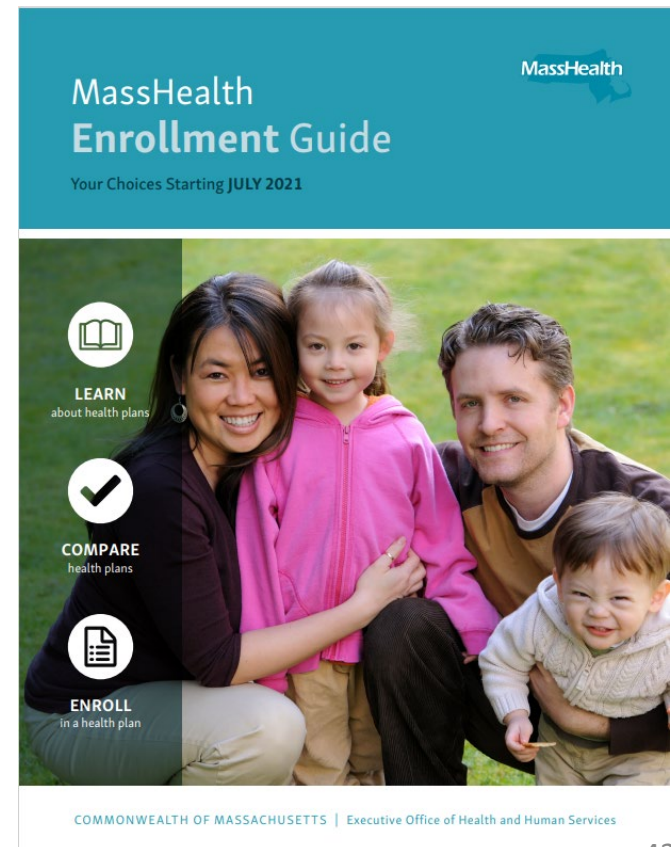
- MassHealth intends to keep members with their existing Primary Care Provider (PCP) when possible
 - As a result, members will be following their PCP into the same health plan their PCP has joined unless they take action



MassHealth Health Plans

On January 1, 2022, MassHealth members whose Primary Care Provider (PCP) will be joining an Accountable Care Organization (ACO) plan, or whose PCP will be changing from one ACO to another will receive an *“Important News about Your MassHealth Health Plan”* letter.

- Member action
 - Members that would like to change health plans can do so during their **Plan Selection Period of January 1, 2022 – March 31, 2022**
- How to change health plan
 - **Online:** [MasshealthChoices.com](https://www.masshealthchoices.com)
 - **Call:** MassHealth Customer Service at (800) 841-2900; TTY: (800) 497-4648
 - **Mail or fax:** Complete the [MassHealth Health Plan Enrollment or Change Form](#)
 - [Certified Assisters](#) (CACs and Navigators)



Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) 2022

Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) 2022

- The Social Security Administration announced on October 13, 2021, that beneficiaries would be receiving a 5.9% COLA increase for 2022
- Social Security and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits increased by 5.9% for approximately 70 million recipients in 2022
- More than 64 million Social Security beneficiaries received the 5.9% cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) increase in January 2022
- [Program financial guidelines for certain MassHealth applicants and members | Mass.gov](#)



Medicare Savings Program (MSP) Update

Medicare Savings Program (MSP)

The Medicare Savings Program also known as **MassHealth Buy-In** helps pay some of the out-of-pocket costs of Medicare. The Buy-In programs can also help get Medicare Part B for members who only have Medicare Part A. If members are in a Buy-In program, they will also be automatically enrolled in the Medicare Part D Extra Help program, which can help with pharmacy costs.

MassHealth Senior Buy-In

- MassHealth Senior Buy-In (Qualified Medicare Beneficiaries (QMB)): May pay for Part B Medicare premiums (and for Part A premiums for those who have one) and for the deductibles and coinsurance under Part A and Part B

MassHealth Buy-In

- MassHealth Buy-In for Specified Low Income Medicare Beneficiaries (SLMB)
- MassHealth Buy-In for Qualifying Individuals (QI-1)
 - May pay for the Medicare Part B premium

MSP Program Eligibility Expansion

Phase 1: January 1, 2020, new income and asset limits:

- Expanded the income limits for Senior Buy-In from 100% FPL to 130% FPL
- Expanded income limits for SLMB and QI from 135% to 165% FPL for Buy-In

New income and asset limits were applied to the following types of applications:

- Individuals could apply for Senior Buy-In (QMB) or Buy-In (SLMB/QI) using the new MassHealth Buy-In application
- Individuals who applied using the Health Coverage for Seniors and People Needing Long-Term-Care Services (SACA-2), **and** are determined eligible for Senior Buy-In (QMB) or Buy-In (SLMB/QI) only (i.e. Not eligible for full MassHealth coverage)
- Individuals who completed an application for Medicare Part D – Low Income Subsidy (LIS) through SSA and SSA were sent a referral “LIS” application to MassHealth (and are not already receiving full MassHealth)

MSP Program Eligibility Expansion: Phase 2



Effective January 27, 2022, MassHealth expands income and asset limits for the Senior Buy-In (QMB) and Buy-In (SLMB/QI) portion of the benefits for individuals who have or are seeking Senior Buy-In or Buy-In, **plus** full MassHealth.

- MassHealth will use the expanded income and asset limits to apply the new Buy-In guidelines to those with:
 - Long Term Care (LTC)
 - MassHealth Standard (Deductible Met)
 - Kaileigh Mulligan
 - Hermanson (PCA)
 - Assets over MassHealth asset limits but within MassHealth income limits

Income & Asset Standards for MassHealth Coverage 65 & Over Living in the Community



- Buy-In Program **asset limits effective January 2022**
 - For INDIVIDUALS: Countable assets are less than or equal to \$16,800
 - For MARRIED COUPLE who live together: Countable assets are less than or equal to \$25,200

The **asset limit amounts subject to change yearly*

MassHealth Customer Service Update

Self-Service Option

- **New:** MassHealth members can use the self-service option to access information about missing RFIs or Renewals documents
 - This information is refreshed weekly and shows information received and successfully processed
- Self-service available 24 hrs/day in English and Spanish
- Call MassHealth Customer Service 1-800-841-2900; TTY at (800) 497-4648
- Other services available Monday-Friday 8 a.m.–5 p.m.

CAC Recertification

CAC Recertification

- Annual recertification is federally mandated
- Reminder: Current certification valid until **April 30, 2022**
- Recertification period: **March 15, 2022 – April 30, 2022**
- Current CACs will take a Recertification Assessment and the NEW: Core Competency Module
 - **All CACs are required to complete the updated Core Competency Module**
- Certificate valid from Assessment completion to **April 30, 2023**
- Reminder: Print your 2022 CAC Certificate after completing recertification

Recertification requirements will be announced in the coming weeks.

A large, dense pile of colorful paper scraps, each featuring a black question mark. The colors include red, blue, green, yellow, pink, and white. The word "QUESTIONS" is overlaid in the center in a white, serif font with a slight shadow.

QUESTIONS

Resources

- **MassHealth's Health Equity Requests for Information (RFIs)**
- **Immigration Resource**

MassHealth's Health Equity Requests for Information (RFIs)

MassHealth's Health Equity Requests for Information (RFIs)



MassHealth is committed to working with members and other stakeholders to address health inequities and eliminate disparities in health and healthcare. To help inform its approach to understanding and addressing these issues and related efforts, MassHealth has released two Requests for Information (RFIs):

- 1. MassHealth Member Engagement Initiatives Request for Information (RFI)**(BD-22-1039-EHS01-EHS01-68839). The purpose of this RFI is to request ideas from members and other stakeholders that will help inform and strengthen MassHealth's efforts to engage with members more broadly and directly on issues related to health equity
- 2. Health Equity Incentives for Certain MassHealth Hospital, Managed Care, and Related Programs Request for Information (RFI)** (BD-22-1039-EHS01-ASHWA-68794).The purpose of this RFI is to request information about health equity and social risk factor data collection and the identification, prioritization, and reduction of health and health care disparities, and related accountability

MassHealth's Health Equity Requests for Information (RFIs) (continued)



Deadline for responses on each RFI has now been **extended to February 4, 2022, at 4:00 p.m.**

- To share your experiences and ideas on these issues, you can access the RFIs by logging into CommBuys at www.commbuys.com or online at [MassHealth Health Equity Requests for Information \(RFIs\) | Mass.gov](https://www.mass.gov/info-details/masshealth-health-equity-requests-for-information-rfis). Any further information will continue to be posted on both CommBuys and the MassHealth website; please check regularly for any additional updates

Immigration Resource

- [Immigration Document Types – Massachusetts Health Connector \(mahealthconnector.org\)](https://mahealthconnector.org)
- COFA Migrants: [Eligibility Operations Memo \(mass.gov\)](https://mass.gov)
- Afghan Evacuees: [Eligibility Operations Memo \(mass.gov\)](https://mass.gov)
- PRUCOL: [Eligibility Operations Memo \(mass.gov\)](https://mass.gov)
- Haitian/Cuban Entrants: [download \(mass.gov\)](https://mass.gov)
- [MassHealth Member Booklet](#)

