



COVID-19 Pharmacy Program Emergency Response

The MassHealth Pharmacy Program, in coordination with agencies across the Executive Office of Health and Human Services, has released guidance in response to the new coronavirus - Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19). Please see below for additional information.

Providers with questions about the COVID-19 Pharmacy Program Emergency Response can contact the MassHealth Drug Utilization Review Program at (800) 745-7318.

Information regarding coverage of COVID-19 treatment and preventative therapies:

- Effective October 22, 2020, the following agent will be available only in an inpatient hospital setting and added to the MassHealth Drug List on December 13, 2020. Please note, remdesivir was available through the federal Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) from May 1, 2020 to October 21, 2020.
 - Veklury (remdesivir)^H

^H This drug is available only in an inpatient hospital setting. MassHealth does not pay for this drug to be dispensed through the retail pharmacy or physician's office.

- During the emergency declaration period, the cost of the therapies for treatment and prevention of COVID-19 listed below is covered by the federal government. Products are available through the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH). Please check with DPH for availability. For information on coverage and payment for administration, please refer to the appropriate All Provider Bulletins below. For information on appropriate use, including specific variants and resistance, of the therapies listed below please refer to guidance from the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) www.fda.gov. Effective for the dates listed below, the following therapies for treatment and prevention of COVID-19 are available through the federal Emergency Use Authorization (EUA)*.
 - bamlanivimab, administered with etesevimab (COVID EUA – February 9, 2021)
 - casirivimab, administered with imdevimab (COVID EUA – November 21, 2020)
 - etesevimab, administered with bamlanivimab (COVID EUA – February 9, 2021)
 - imdevimab, administered with casirivimab (COVID EUA – November 21, 2020)
 - Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine (COVID EUA – February 27, 2021)
 - Olumiant (baricitinib COVID EUA – November 19, 2020)[†]
 - Pfizer COVID-19 Vaccine (COVID EUA – December 11, 2020)
 - Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine (COVID EUA – December 18, 2020)

* Displayed EUA date corresponds to the original EUA date. For additional EUA approval dates, please refer to FDA guidance.

[†] For use under the EUA, this agent is available only in an inpatient hospital setting with remdesivir.

Mass.Gov COVID-19 Webpage:

Information on Governor Baker's State of Emergency announcements by the Executive Office of Health and Human Services, and other important links:

<https://www.mass.gov/resource/information-on-the-outbreak-of-coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19>

MassHealth COVID-19 Provider Webpage:

Information on MassHealth's response to COVID-19. Includes updated bulletins, pharmacy facts, and answers to frequently asked questions.

<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/masshealth-coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19-providers>

Pharmacy Program Facts and Other Information for Pharmacies Regarding COVID-19:

Pharmacy Facts 141: Updates Related to Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Effective March 14, 2020:

<https://www.mass.gov/doc/pharmacy-facts-141-march-12-2020-0/download>

Pharmacy Facts 142: Additional Updates Related to Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Effective Immediately:

<https://www.mass.gov/doc/pharmacy-facts-no-142-march-20-2020-0/download>

Pharmacy Facts 143: Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) and New Policies on Chloroquine and Hydroxychloroquine—Effective for Dates of Service on or after March 26, 2020:

<https://www.mass.gov/doc/pharmacy-facts-143-march-25-2020-0/download>

Pharmacy Facts 145: Additional Updates Related to Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) provides guidance on how pharmacies should bill for home delivery, and updated information for pharmacies that provide durable medical equipment (DME) including DME prior authorization flexibilities.

<https://www.mass.gov/doc/pharmacy-facts-145-april-28-2020-0/download>

Pharmacy Facts 147: Additional Updates for Pharmacies Serving Health Safety Net Patients provides guidance for how pharmacies should submit claims for Health Safety Net (HSN) patients in light of new flexibilities that temporarily allow patients who are unable to receive their medications from their regular (HSN) provider to have those prescriptions filled by any pharmacy in the MassHealth network.

<https://www.mass.gov/doc/pharmacy-facts-147-may-13-2020/download>

Pharmacy Facts 150: Additional Updates Related to Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) ends several temporary policy changes made in response to COVID-19, including early refills and some prior authorization flexibilities.

<https://www.mass.gov/doc/pharmacy-facts-150-july-13-2020-0/download>

Pharmacy Facts 154: Additional Update Related to Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) ends a policy change made during the COVID-19 pandemic regarding albuterol inhaler prescribing requirements.

<https://www.mass.gov/doc/pharmacy-facts-154-october-7-2020-0/download>

Pharmacy Facts 155: Provides guidance on additional flexibilities for pharmacy coverage and billing for individuals who are Health Safety Net patients.

<https://www.mass.gov/doc/pharmacy-facts-155-october-7-2020-0/download>

Pharmacy Facts 157: Additional Updates Related to Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) allows pharmacists to dispense up to a 365-day supply of drugs used for family planning if requested by a MassHealth member or that member's prescriber.

<https://www.mass.gov/doc/pharmacy-facts-157-december-1-2020-0/download>

Pharmacy Facts 160: The first COVID-19 vaccine product received Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) by the U.S. FDA on December 11, 2020, and a second product received EUA on December 18, 2020. MassHealth will cover the vaccines for members in MassHealth Standard, CommonHealth, Family Assistance, CarePlus, Children's Medical Security Plan, and Health Safety Net.

<https://www.mass.gov/doc/pharmacy-facts-160-january-22-2021-0/download>

Pharmacy Facts 162: COVID Vaccine Billing Information outlines the MassHealth rates of payment for COVID-19 vaccines and provides guidance on submitting claims for the vaccines.

<https://www.mass.gov/doc/pharmacy-facts-162-march-25-2021-0/download>

All Provider Bulletins:

All Provider Bulletin 289: MassHealth Coverage Reimbursement Policy for Service Related to Coronavirus Disease 2019 addresses lab services, access to telehealth, billing of home visits, 90-day supplies of medications, early refills, cost-sharing and referrals:

<https://www.mass.gov/doc/all-provider-bulletin-289-masshealth-coverage-and-reimbursement-policy-for-services-related-to/download>

All Provider Bulletin 291: MassHealth Coverage and Reimbursement Policy for Services Related to Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) builds off of Bulletin 289 to create additional flexibilities including: relaxing referral requirements, further expanding HPE, allowing medication delivery and waiving pharmacy signature requirements, and providing guidance for Emergency Services Program (ESP) and Mobile Crisis Intervention (MCI) Services:

<https://www.mass.gov/doc/all-provider-bulletin-291-masshealth-coverage-and-reimbursement-policy-for-services-related-0/download>

All Provider Bulletin 304: Coverage and Payment for Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Vaccine Administration, Testing, and Monoclonal Antibody Product Infusion provides guidance regarding coverage and payment for COVID-19 vaccines for the MassHealth and limited benefit populations. It also provides coverage and payment guidance regarding two monoclonal antibody therapies to treat COVID-19 as well as guidance on new testing codes.

<https://www.mass.gov/doc/all-provider-bulletin-304-coverage-and-payment-for-coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19-vaccine-0/download>

All Provider Bulletin 307: Updated Payment Rates and Authorized Providers for Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Vaccine Administration supersedes portions of All Provider Bulletin 304 to provide updated information on payment for COVID-19 vaccine administration and to list additional providers who may bill for COVID-19 vaccine administration.

<https://www.mass.gov/doc/all-provider-bulletin-307-updated-payment-rates-and-authorized-providers-for-coronavirus-0/download>

All Provider Bulletin 312: Additional Authorized Vaccine Product and Antibody Treatment and Update to Authorized Providers and Coverage Policy for MassHealth Limited Members for Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Vaccine Administration adds the Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine as an authorized product and provides guidance on rates for the vaccine, lists additional providers who may bill MassHealth for vaccine administration, and requires providers to bill MassHealth for COVID-19 vaccines administered to MassHealth Limited members rather than the federal COVID-19 Uninsured Program portal.

<https://www.mass.gov/doc/all-provider-bulletin-312-additional-authorized-vaccine-product-and-antibody-treatment-and-0/download>

All Provider Bulletin 313: Updated Rates for Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Vaccine Administration updates the rates MassHealth will pay for COVID-19 vaccine administration for dates of service on or after April 1, 2021.

<https://www.mass.gov/doc/all-provider-bulletin-313-updated-rates-for-coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19-vaccine-administration-0/download>

LTSS Provider Information:

Information for DME providers:

Durable Medical Equipment Bulletin 26: COVID-19 Related Administrative Flexibilities for Durable Medical Equipment Providers – Extension extends COVID-19 related flexibilities for providers of MassHealth-covered durable medical equipment. Some of the flexibilities described in the bulletin will extend until the end of the federal public health emergency, while others do not have an end date.

<https://www.mass.gov/doc/durable-medical-equipment-bulletin-26-covid-19-related-administrative-flexibilities-for-durable-medical-equipment-providers-extension/download>

Managed Care Bulletins:

Bulletin 22: Consolidates new COVID-19 related pharmacy requirements for MassHealth Accountable Care Partnership Plans (ACPPs) and Managed Care Organizations (MCOs):

<https://www.mass.gov/doc/managed-care-entity-bulletin-22-updated-coverage-and-payment-policies-0/download>

Bulletin 41: Contains updated policies for Accountable Care Partnership Plans (ACPPs) and Managed Care Organizations (MCOs) that align with certain coverage and payment policies of MassHealth's Fee-for-Service program, Primary Care Clinician (PCC) Plan, and Primary Care Accountable Care Organizations relating to pharmacy services, referrals, and payment:

<https://www.mass.gov/doc/managed-care-entity-bulletin-41-updated-pharmacy-coverage-policies-0/download>

Bulletin 49: Flu Vaccine Access and Birth Control Supply Flexibility makes changes to the out-of-network flu vaccine coverage and guidance on birth control supplies for Accountable Care Partnership Plans (ACPPs) and Managed Care Organizations (MCOs) to provide greater flexibility in providing care to MassHealth members:

<https://www.mass.gov/doc/managed-care-entity-bulletin-49-flu-vaccine-access-and-birth-control-supply-flexibility-0/download>

Bulletin 50: Coverage and Payment for Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Vaccine Administration, Testing, and Monoclonal Antibody Product Infusion provides guidance regarding coverage and payment for COVID-19 vaccines for the MassHealth members enrolled in an Accountable Care Partnership Plan (ACPPs), Managed Care Organization (MCOs), Senior Care Organization (SCOs) or One Care plan. It also provides coverage and payment guidance regarding two monoclonal antibody therapies to treat COVID-19 as well as guidance on new testing codes:

<https://www.mass.gov/doc/managed-care-entity-bulletin-50-coverage-and-payment-for-coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19-0/download>

Bulletin 52: Update to Payment for Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Vaccine Administration, Update to Authorized Vaccine Providers, and New Mass Immunizer Providers requires managed care plans and PACE organizations to match the payment and coverage policies of MassHealth's fee-for-service program for COVID-19 vaccines, as described in All Provider Bulletin 307:

<https://www.mass.gov/doc/managed-care-entity-bulletin-52-update-to-payment-for-coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19-vaccine/download>

Bulletin 57: Update to Payment for Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Vaccine Administration, Authorized Vaccine Providers, and Mass Immunizer Providers requires managed care plans to conform their coverage policies, including rates of payment, for COVID-19 vaccines with MassHealth's fee-for-service policies:

<https://www.mass.gov/doc/managed-care-entity-bulletin-57-update-to-payment-for-coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19-vaccine-administration-authorized-vaccine-providers-and-mass-immunizer-providers-0/download>

Mass Immunizer Provider Bulletins:

Bulletin 1: Mass Immunizer Provider Requirements and Payment for Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Vaccine Administration provides guidance on MassHealth requirements for new mass immunizer providers and provides information on payment to these providers.

<https://www.mass.gov/doc/mass-immunizer-provider-bulletin-1-mass-immunizer-provider-requirements-and-payment-for-0/download>

Bulletin 2: Updated Rates for Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Vaccine Administration updates the rates of payment for COVID-19 vaccine administration on or after April 1, 2021 and requires providers to bill MassHealth for members with the MassHealth Limited benefit.

<https://www.mass.gov/doc/mass-immunizer-bulletin-2-updated-rates-for-coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19-vaccine-administration-0/download>

General Reminders:

- **Emergency Overrides**

Consistent with 130 CMR 406.411(B) and to ensure MassHealth members do not experience gaps in care, pharmacists may initiate an emergency override if they encounter a rejected claim for a medication requiring prior authorization. MassHealth will pay the pharmacy for at least a 72-hour, nonrefillable supply of the drug. To obtain an emergency override, pharmacists should contact the Drug Utilization Review Unit at (800) 745-7318 during normal business hours. If outside of business hours, pharmacies may submit an emergency override claim with a value of "03" for Level of Service (field 418). After the prescription is adjudicated, the pharmacy should remove the "03" from the level of service field before the next fill.

- **Cost Sharing**

MassHealth reminds providers of those services for which MassHealth charges copayments, such as pharmacy services, that they "may not refuse services to any members who are unable to pay the copayment at the time service is provided" 130 CMR 450.130(G)(2).

Board of Registration in Pharmacy Guidance:

Recent news & announcements, including answers to COVID-19 frequently asked questions:

<https://www.mass.gov/orgs/board-of-registration-in-pharmacy>