



MassHealth Pharmacy Program Public Health Emergency Response

This page provides Public Health Emergency (PHE) Response information and guidance related to the MassHealth Pharmacy Program as well as links to relevant webpages. Please note, guidance will be updated as needed and as additional information is available. Please access information by clicking hyperlinks which are provided throughout the document.

- Please click the links below to be directed to information related to the **Monkeypox PHE**.
 - [Mass.gov Monkeypox Webpage](#)
 - General information on monkeypox
 - [MassHealth Monkeypox Provider Webpage](#)
 - Clinical guidance, including information on vaccinations and testing
 - [Coverage of monkeypox treatment and preventive therapies](#)
- Please click the links below to be directed to information related to the **COVID-19 PHE**.
 - [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
 - [MassHealth COVID-19 Provider Webpage](#)
 - Information on MassHealth's response to COVID-19. This includes updated bulletins, pharmacy facts, and answers to frequently asked questions.
 - [Coverage of COVID-19 at-home antigen test kits](#)
 - [Coverage of COVID-19 treatment and preventive therapies](#)
 - [Pharmacy Program Facts and other information for pharmacies](#)
 - [All Provider Bulletins](#)
 - [Information for Long Term Services and Supports \(LTSS\) providers](#)
 - [Managed Care Bulletins](#)
 - [Information for immunizing providers](#)

Board of Registration in Pharmacy Guidance:

[Massachusetts Board of Registration in Pharmacy](#)

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).

Monkeypox 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 orthopoxvirus – Monkeypox. Please see below for additional information.

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

Information regarding coverage of monkeypox treatment and preventive therapies:

- During the emergency declaration period, the cost of the therapies for treatment and prevention of monkeypox listed below is covered by the federal government through the strategic national stockpile. Products may be available through the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH). Please check with DPH for availability. 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 August 15, 2022, the following agents have been added to the MassHealth Drug List on September 19, 2022.
 - ACAM2000 (smallpox vaccine, live)
 - Jynneos (smallpox and monkeypox vaccine, live, non-replicating)
 - Tpoxx (tecovirimat)

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 at home antigen self-test kits:

- Effective January 14, 2022, the following at home antigen self-test kits will be available without prior authorization within listed quantity limits and added to the MassHealth Non-Drug Product List.
 - Binaxnow – PA > 8 tests/28 days
 - Flowflex – PA > 8 tests/28 days
 - Ihealth – PA > 8 tests/28 days
 - Inteliswab – PA > 8 tests/28 days
 - Quickvue – PA > 8 tests/28 days
- Effective March 21, 2022, the following at home antigen self-test kits will be available without prior authorization within listed quantity limits and added to the MassHealth Non-Drug Product List.

- Carestart – PA > 8 tests/28 days
- On-Go – PA > 8 tests/28 days

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

- Effective October 22, 2020, the following agent was available only in an inpatient hospital setting and added to the MassHealth Drug List on December 13, 2020.
Effective December 30, 2021, the following agent will be available in both inpatient and outpatient hospital.
Effective February 7, 2022, the following agent will require prior authorization for outpatient use and will no longer be restricted to the health care professional who administers the drug. Please note, remdesivir was available through the federal Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) from May 1, 2020 to October 21, 2020.
 - Veklury (remdesivir) – PA
- Effective August 23, 2021, the following agent will be available without prior authorization and added to the MassHealth Drug List on September 20, 2021 for members 16 years old and above.
Effective July 13, 2022, the following agent will be available without prior authorization for members ages 12 to 15 years of age and added to the MassHealth Drug List on September 19, 2022 for members 12 years and above.
Please note, Comirnaty is still available through the federal EUA from October 29, 2021 for members 5 to 11 years of age and EUA from June 17, 2022 for members six months to four years of age.
 - Comirnaty (COVID-19 Pfizer vaccine for members ≥ 12 years of age)
 - Comirnaty (Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine for members ≥ 12 years of age)
- Effective January 31, 2022, the following agent will be available without prior authorization and added to the MassHealth Drug List on February 7, 2022. Please note, Moderna COVID-19 vaccine was available through the federal EUA from December 18, 2020 to January 30, 2022.
 - Spikevax (Moderna COVID-19 vaccine for members ≥ 18 years of age)
 - Spikevax (COVID-19 Moderna vaccine for members ≥ 18 years of age)
- Effective May 10, 2022, the following agent will be available without prior authorization in the hospital setting and added to the MassHealth Drug List on June 27, 2022, for members 18 years old and above. Please note, Olumiant is still available through the federal EUA from November 19, 2020, for members two to less than 18 years of age.
 - Olumiant (baricitinib for members ≥ 18 years of age) ^H
- Effective August 15, 2022, the following agent will no longer be restricted to use through the federal Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) from February 11, 2022. The federal EUA was revised August 5, 2022 to no longer require directed distribution by the United States Government.*
 - bebtelovimab (COVID EUA – February 11, 2022)

- 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 may be 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)*.
 - Actemra (tocilizumab COVID EUA – June 24, 2021) †
 - bamlanivimab, administered with etesevimab (COVID EUA – February 9, 2021) ‡
 - Comirnaty (Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine COVID EUA – October 29, 2021 for members 5 to 11 years of age)
 - Comirnaty (COVID-19 Pfizer vaccine COVID EUA – October 29, 2021 for members 5 to 11 years of age)
 - Comirnaty (Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine COVID EUA – June 17, 2022 for members 6 months to 4 years of age)
 - Comirnaty (COVID-19 Pfizer vaccine COVID EUA – June 17, 2022 for members 6 months to 4 years of age)
 - Evusheld (tixagevimab/cilgavimab COVID EUA – December 8, 2021)
 - etesevimab, administered with bamlanivimab (COVID EUA – February 9, 2021) ‡
 - Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine (COVID EUA – February 27, 2021)
 - Lagevrio (molnupiravir COVID EUA – December 23, 2021)
 - Novavax COVID-19 vaccine, adjuvanted (COVID EUA – July 13, 2022 for members ≥ 12 years of age)
 - Olumiant (baricitinib COVID EUA – November 19, 2020 for members 2 to 17 years of age) †
 - Paxlovid (nirmatrelvir/ritonavir COVID EUA – December 22, 2021)
 - Regen-Cov (casirivimab, administered with imdevimab COVID EUA – November 21, 2020) ‡
 - Regen-Cov (imdevimab, administered with casirivimab COVID EUA – November 21, 2020) ‡
 - Spikevax (Moderna COVID-19 vaccine COVID EUA – June 17, 2022 for members 6 months to 17 years of age)
 - Spikevax (COVID-19 Moderna vaccine COVID EUA – June 17, 2022 for members 6 months to 17 years of age)
 - sotrovimab (COVID EUA – May 26, 2021) §

* 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.

‡ As of January 24, 2022, this agent is not currently authorized for use in any U.S. region due to the high frequency of the Omicron variant.

§ As of April 5, 2022, this agent is not currently authorized for use in any U.S. region due to the high frequency of the Omicron BA.2 sub-variant.

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

[Pharmacy Facts 177](#): MassHealth Pharmacy Coverage of Over-the-Counter Diagnostic Antigen Tests for SARS-CoV-2.

[Pharmacy Facts 178](#): This Pharmacy Facts describes revisions to the pharmacy regulations at 130 CMR 406.000. These revisions implement new policies to exclude certain drugs from being purchased through the 340B Drug Pricing Program for MassHealth members; requiring or allowing 90-day supplies of particular drugs; and adding some exceptions to day-supply limits. Amendments were made to clarify or update some already-existing policies, including the 365-day supply for drugs used for family planning; payment for vaccines and non-drug products provided to pharmacies; cash payments; and required notifications when a drug was not dispensed because the prescriber had not sought prior authorization (PA).

[Pharmacy Facts 183](#): Details that, effective September 19, 2022, MassHealth will no longer allow 90-day supplies for most brand name drugs. Only drugs designated by the MassHealth Drug List will be allowed to be dispensed in a 90-day supply.)

Please note, only the three most recent COVID-19 related publications are listed here. For a complete list of Pharmacy Facts publications, please visit the [MassHealth Pharmacy Facts webpage](#). Additional COVID-19 related Pharmacy Facts include Pharmacy Facts 141, 142, 143, 145, 147, 150, 154, 155, 157, 160, 162, 163, 165, 167, 170, 172, and 176.

All Provider Bulletins:

[All Provider Bulletin 346](#): Coverage and Reimbursement Policy for Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Vaccines, including Pediatric Vaccines, and Vaccine Boosters confirms coverage for COVID-19 vaccine doses (ages six months through four years) for the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Pediatric Vaccine, the Moderna COVID-19 Pediatric Vaccine, as well as coverage for the Pfizer- BioNTech COVID-19 pediatric vaccine booster doses and the Novavax COVID-19 vaccine.

[All Provider Bulletin 347](#): Changes to Prescription Drug Days' Supply Limitations, Effective September 19, 2022, details that, effective September 19, 2022, MassHealth will no longer allow 90-day supplies for most brand name drugs. Only drugs designated by the MassHealth Drug List will be allowed to be dispensed in a 90-day supply.

[All Provider Bulletin 349](#): Provides information around future pricing of bebtelovimab, a monoclonal antibody used for the treatment of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19).

Please note, only the three most recent COVID-19 related publications are listed here. For a complete list of All Provider Bulletins, please visit the [MassHealth All Provider Bulletins webpage](#). Additional COVID-19 related All Provider Bulletins include All Provider Bulletins 289, 291, 304, 307, 213, 313, 317, 318, 319, 320, 321, 322, 326, 328, 330, 333, 336, 337, 341, and 344.

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.

Managed Care Bulletins:

[Bulletin 73](#): Coverage for Monoclonal Antibodies for Treatment and Post-Exposure Prophylaxis for Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) requires managed care plans to conform their coverage policies, including rates of payments, to match those in All Provider Bulletins 318 and 326, when providing monoclonal antibody products for treatment and post-exposure prophylaxis for COVID-19 as Medicaid services.

[Bulletin 77](#): Coverage and Payment Policy for Booster Doses of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Vaccines, Pediatric Vaccines, and Monoclonal Antibody Treatments restates and consolidates MassHealth coverage requirements for adult and pediatric COVID-19 vaccinations and monoclonal antibody treatments.

[Bulletin 80](#): Coverage of Over-the-Counter Diagnostic Antigen Tests for SARS-CoV-2 instructs managed care plans to institute certain policies to align with MassHealth's All Provider Bulletin 337, effective January 14, 2022.

Please note, only the three most recent COVID-19 related publications are listed in this document. For additional Managed Care Bulletins, please visit the [MassHealth Managed Care Bulletins webpage](#). Additional COVID-19 related Managed Care Bulletins include Bulletins 22, 41, 49, 50, 52, 57, 62, 66, 67, 69, and 73.

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.

[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.