



**Commonwealth of Massachusetts**  
**Executive Office of Health and Human Services**  
**Office of Medicaid**  
[www.mass.gov/masshealth](http://www.mass.gov/masshealth)

**MassHealth**  
**Nursing Facility Bulletin 149**  
**July 2020**

**TO:** Nursing Facilities Participating in MassHealth

**FROM:** Amanda Cassel Kraft, Acting Medicaid Director

**RE:** Family Assistance Coverage Expansion for Nursing Facility Services

### **Background**

The Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS) is expanding MassHealth Family Assistance coverage for nursing facility services.

This bulletin is effective July 10, 2020, and applies to all nursing facilities that are MassHealth providers for dates of service beginning March 11, 2020.

### **Changes to MassHealth Family Assistance Coverage**

For dates of service beginning March 11, 2020, and notwithstanding 130 CMR 450.105(G)(3): *Covered Services for Members who are not Receiving Premium Assistance*, the MassHealth Family Assistance benefit will include coverage of nursing facility services up to a maximum of 100 days per admission to a nursing facility for MassHealth Family Assistance members.

Under this coverage, if after admission to a nursing facility, a MassHealth Family Assistance member is discharged or transferred to any other setting and does not return to a nursing facility for more than 30 days, EOHHS will consider a subsequent admission by the member to a nursing facility to be a separate admission, and the 100 days of nursing facility coverage will begin from the first date of the subsequent admission. However, if after admission to a nursing facility, a MassHealth Family Assistance member is discharged or transferred to any other setting, but returns to a nursing facility within 30 days, EOHHS will consider the return to a nursing facility to be a continuation of the initial nursing facility admission, and the 100 days of nursing facility coverage will begin from the date of initial admission to the nursing facility.

MassHealth members with Family Assistance coverage must receive the necessary level of care and pre-admission screenings applicable to all nursing facility admissions, including but not limited to, 130 CMR 456.409: *Services Requirement for Medical Eligibility*, and 130 CMR 456.410: *Screening for Mental Illness and Mental Retardation*.

Nursing facilities must meet all other federal and state statutory and regulatory requirements, including but not limited to requirements for admission, provision of services, residents' rights, and discharge notice and planning requirements, with respect to members admitted with MassHealth Family Assistance coverage.

**MassHealth  
Nursing Facility Bulletin 149  
July 2020  
Page 2 of 2**

**MassHealth Website**

This bulletin is available on the [MassHealth Provider Bulletins](#) web page.

To sign up to receive email alerts when MassHealth issues new bulletins and transmittal letters, send a blank email to [join-masshealth-provider-pubs@listserv.state.ma.us](mailto:join-masshealth-provider-pubs@listserv.state.ma.us). No text in the body or subject line is needed.

**Questions**

If you have any questions about the information in this bulletin, please contact MassHealth as applicable for your provider type.

**Long-Term Services and Supports**

Phone: (844) 368-5184 (toll-free)

Email: [support@masshealthltss.com](mailto:support@masshealthltss.com)

Portal: [MassHealthLTSS.com](http://MassHealthLTSS.com)

Mail: MassHealth LTSS, PO Box 159108, Boston, MA 02215

Fax: (888) 832-3006

**All Other Provider Types**

Phone: (800) 841-2900; TTY: (800) 497-4648

Email: [providersupport@mahealth.net](mailto:providersupport@mahealth.net)

Fax: (617) 988-8974