



Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Health and Human Services
Office of Medicaid
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Boston, MA 02111
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MassHealth
Acute Inpatient Hospital Bulletin 132
October 2006

TO: Acute Inpatient Hospitals Participating in MassHealth
FROM: Beth Waldman, Medicaid Director *BW*
RE: Revision to the Notification of Clinical Eligibility for Nursing Facility Services

Background

This bulletin is to inform you of the change in the duration of short-term nursing facility stays that acute inpatient hospitals are allowed to authorize for MassHealth members or applicants, effective November 1, 2006.

Massachusetts acute inpatient hospitals are responsible for reviewing clinical eligibility of certain MassHealth members or applicants as specified in MassHealth Acute Inpatient Hospital Bulletin 128 (May 2004) for nursing facility services. The hospital determines if the individual meets the MassHealth clinical criteria for nursing facility coverage and completes the Nursing Facility Clinical Eligibility notification. Copies of the form are available on the MassHealth Web site at www.mass.gov/masshealth. Click on the Information for MassHealth Providers link, and then on the link for MassHealth Provider Forms. Scroll down to the section containing forms for Long Term Care–Nursing Facility and click on the Acute Inpatient Hospital Admission form.

Short-Term Approvals

Acute inpatient hospitals may issue a 30-day short-term nursing facility approval MassHealth members who meet MassHealth standards of clinical eligibility for nursing facility coverage. This replaces the previous 45-day approval.

Long-Term Approvals

The acute inpatient hospital may approve a long-term nursing facility coverage only for MassHealth members or applicants as specified in Acute Inpatient Hospital Bulletin 128 who have one or more of the following conditions:

1. mid-to-late-stage Alzheimer's disease or dementia;
2. end-stage terminal illness;
3. comatose, unresponsive state; or
4. complex, multisystem failure resulting in permanent dependence in all activities of daily living.

For all other members, only a short-term approval may be issued. This process has not been changed. The OBRA/PAS requirements for mental illness, mental retardation, and developmental disability are not affected by this change.

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Questions

If you have any questions about the information in this bulletin, please contact MassHealth Customer Service at 1-800-841-2900, e-mail your inquiry to providersupport@mahealth.net, or fax your inquiry to 617-988-8974.
