




Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Health and Human Services
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MassHealth
Podiatrist Bulletin 16
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TO: Podiatrists Participating in MassHealth
FROM: Tom Dehner, Medicaid Director 
RE: Elimination of Life and Safety Requirement

Background

Under current podiatry regulations, MassHealth pays only for podiatry services that are certified as necessary for the life and safety of the member. The podiatrist must have certification of medical necessity, written on letterhead from the member's primary care physician, and submit the life and safety certification with the claim for payment. The physician must explain the nature of the medical necessity.

Elimination of the Life and Safety Requirement

Effective for dates of service on or after July 1, 2008, MassHealth is eliminating the life-and-safety requirement for the provision of all podiatry services to MassHealth members. Accordingly, for dates of service on or after July 1, 2008, providers will not need to submit a life and safety certification with a claim for payment. However, podiatry services must be medically necessary in accordance with 130 CMR 450.204. Additionally, for members who belong to the PCC Plan, podiatry services will continue to require a referral from the member's primary-care clinician (PCC) before the delivery of services.

Effective Date

Elimination of the life-and-safety requirement will be reflected separately in amended MassHealth podiatry regulations. Regardless of the effective date of the amended regulations, the elimination of the life-and-safety requirement is effective for dates of service on or after July 1, 2008.

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.
