



MassHealth Overview + Eligibility

MassHealth (Medicaid) Programs and Services with a Focus on People with Intellectual and/or Developmental Disabilities, including Autism

▶ STANDARD VS. COMMONHEALTH ELIGIBILITY:

MassHealth Standard Health is an income-based program. If you receive Supplemental Security Income (SSI), you are automatically eligible for MassHealth.

MassHealth CommonHealth is a disability-based program. It does not consider assets in determining eligibility. Premiums are set based on your income. You can apply for Premium Assistance.

▶ STANDARD & COMMON SERVICES

MassHealth is Massachusetts' name for Medicaid Services. The state lists services in several categories – you can see how MassHealth categorizes services here www.mass.gov/eohhs/gov/newsroom/masshealth/providers/chart-of-masshealth-covered-services.html

MassHealth or Medicaid is the largest source of financing for disabilities services in the United States. For people with disabilities and for those who provide their care, Medicaid serves as a valuable safety net. Often the only source of financial assistance for health care, Medicaid plays a critical role for people with disabilities in providing coverage and access to care.

MASSHEALTH OVERVIEW + ELIGIBILITY



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Listed first are the medical and related benefits through MassHealth, followed by long term supports and services (LTSS).

MEDICAL:

- Inpatient and outpatient hospital care, clinics, doctors, dentists, family planning, vision, lab tests and x-rays
- Occupational therapy, physical therapy, speech language therapy
- Pharmacy services
- Durable Medical Equipment such as hearing aids, eyeglasses, diapers, speech devices;
- Behavioral health services: mental health and substance abuse.
- Well-child screenings: (for children under 21), including medical, vision, dental, hearing, behavioral health (mental health and substance abuse), developmental screens and shots, early and periodic screening, diagnosis and treatment services.
- Augmentative Communication Devices
- Quit smoking services

LONG-TERM SUPPORTS AND SERVICES

These help you or your loved one to live in the community:

- Day habilitation
- Adult day health
- Adult Foster Care (AFC): Provides 24 hour care and support to enable those 16 and older with high needs to live at home instead of in a nursing home. To be eligible the person must be unable to live alone and need help with at least one activity of daily living (hygiene, dressing, eating, using the bathroom). AFC caregivers must be over 18 and receive a daily tax-free stipend. Family members can act as AFC providers unless they are spouses or guardians. For more information, see: www.massafc.org/
- Group adult foster care
- Personal Care Attendant services: Personal Assistance gives people with disabilities the support they need to lead more independent lives. After services are approved by MassHealth, individuals and/or surrogates hire their own assistants to help with personal care.

LONG-TERM SUPPORTS AND SERVICES (CON'T)

- Personal Care Attendant (PCA) services (con't): You may apply for the PCA Program if you are eligible for MassHealth Standard or CommonHealth, and you have approval from your doctor for PCA services; a chronic or permanent disability that prevents you from performing your own personal care; and a need for physical (hands-on) assistance with at least two of seven activities of daily living (ADLs) (mobility, bathing/grooming, dressing/undressing, passive range-of-motion exercises, taking medications, eating, and toileting). www.mass.gov/eohhs/docs/mass-health/memlibrary/pca-consumer-handbook.pdf
- Home health services (nursing and home health): Home Health Agencies provide nursing visits, home health aide services, physical therapy, speech therapy and occupational therapy services to MassHealth members in their homes and communities.
- Continuous block nursing: Some home health agencies provide continuous skilled nursing (CSN) services (a nurse visit of more than 2 continuous hours). Eligible members are provided CSN services by Independent Nurses enrolled with MassHealth. Currently, the University of Massachusetts Medical School (UMMS) provides care management to medically complex members receiving CSN services. The purpose of care management is to ensure that medically complex care members are provided with a coordinated LTSS services plan that meets the member's needs.
- Applied behavioral analysis (for those with autism), and children's behavioral health initiative
- Transportation to and from medical appointments

FOR SHORT DESCRIPTIONS OF EACH, SEE OUR RELATED BROCHURES:

- Guide to Day and Employment Services
- Guide to Family Support Services
- Guide to Housing Services and Supports

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▶ COMMONHEALTH AND PRIVATE HEALTH INSURANCE

If you have both CommonHealth and Private Insurance:

CommonHealth fills gaps in your coverage:

If you need a service that CommonHealth provides and your private insurance does not, you can access it through CommonHealth.

You can apply for Premium Assistance:

Premium Assistance covers some or all private insurance premiums/payroll deductions (for more information, see below).

▶ PREMIUM ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

You may be eligible for assistance paying health care premiums if:

1. you have private insurance,
2. a family member has Mass Health Standard or CommonHealth,
3. you pay a premium for health care coverage and
4. your private insurance meets MA standards.

To find out if you qualify, call:

MassHealth Premium Assistance Unit:
1-800-862-4840

▶ HOW TO APPLY FOR MASSHEALTH (MEDICAID)

1. Go to the MassHealth Connector mahealthconnector.optum.com/individual/
2. Click 'Apply Now.'
3. You will need to register for an account.
4. After you create an account you can apply online or in print. Applying online is highly advised because it speeds up the process. For help, call MassHealth Customer Service at **1-800-841-2900 (TTY:1-800-496-4648)**.
5. If you choose to complete the paper application, mail to:
MassHealth Enrollment Center-CPU
P.O. Box 290794
Charlestown, MA 02129-0214
6. Keep a copy of your entire application for your records.

i DOCUMENTS TO SUBMIT WITH YOUR ACA-3 APPLICATION

- Proof of family income
- Proof of citizenship or green card
- Proof of identity: ID card or driver's license

NOTE:

Be sure to check "yes" to the question: "Does the person have a potential disability?"

▶ EARLY INTERVENTION:

MA also provides early intervention services for children 3 and under with or at risk for developmental delays.

CALL FAMILY TIES AT 1-800-905-8437 FOR MORE INFORMATION.



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▶ COMMONHEALTH ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

1. *Fill out blue supplement A: Injury, Illness or Disability Question form* for the person with disability. Send application to address listed on page 3. The disability review process can take up to 90 days.
2. *Complete the MassHealth Child Disability Supplement* (if child is under 18). Include the following: child's medical evaluation, Individualized Family Services Plan (IFSP), and Individualized Education Plan (IEP), testing or other records describing your child's functioning ability. For those over 18, submit the MassHealth Adult Disability Supplement form.
3. *Fill out MassHealth Medical Release Form* for ALL doctors, educators, social service providers, therapists, etc. Mail forms to:
Disability Evaluation Services/ UMASS Medical DES
P.O. Box 2796
Worcester, MA 01613-2796

* Call Disability Evaluation Services for help at: 1-888-497-9890

▶ WHERE TO GET HELP APPLYING FOR MASSHEALTH?

- Center for Family Navigation and Community Promotion (Boston Medical Center):
www.bmc.org/center-for-family-navigation-and-community-health-promotion.htm
- Behavioral Health Network:
bhninc.org/
- Neighborhood Health Care Management:
www.nhp.org/provider/clinical/programs/Pages/Care-Management.aspx
- The Federation for Children with Special Needs:
fcsn.org/

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