MassHealth Update: Key Changes and Timeline for Coverage and Eligibility

October 1, 2026 – Changes for Some Immigrants

Some lawfully present immigrants no longer qualify for comprehensive MassHealth coverage. Exceptions apply. In general, children <21 and pregnant/postpartum individuals can retain their prior coverage. Other coverage options may be available. More info here.

January 1, 2027 – New Work and Education Requirements

Certain adults ages 19–64 will need to meet new work or other requirements to maintain MassHealth coverage, unless exempt. Many affected members will also need to renew their coverage every six months instead of annually. In 2027, this will require self-attestation only. In 2028, further documentation will be required.

Work and Education Requirements Beginning January 2027
Members may meet the requirements by completing one of these qualifying activities:
• Working at least 80 hours per month.
• Earning at least $580/month in 2026. Seasonal workers may qualify with averaging rule.
• Volunteering at least 80 hours per month with an eligible organization.
• Participating in an approved job training program for at least 80 hours per month.
• Attending a qualifying educational program at least half-time.
• Combining work, volunteer, training, or educational activities to reach 80 hours/month.

Who May Be Exempt From Work Requirements?
• Pregnant persons or less than 12 months postpartum.
• Parents, guardians, or caregivers of children under age 14 or individuals with disabilities.
• Persons with a disability, blindness, or certain medical or behavioral health conditions.
• Are under age 26 and were enrolled in Medicaid when they aged out of foster care.
• Meet certain American Indian or Alaska Native exemptions.
• Are eligible for Medicare Part A or enrolled in Medicare Part B.
• Meet specified criteria related to military service and disability, qualifying substance-use treatment, certain public assistance programs, or recent incarceration.
Other exemptions may apply. Eligibility depends on the individual's circumstances.

What Patients Should Do - Encourage patients to:
• **Update contact information** with MassHealth: mailing address, phone number, email.
• **Respond to all notices** from MassHealth, including letters sent in blue envelopes.
• **Report changes** in income, household size, pregnancy, disability status, etc.
• **Check whether they may be affected** using the official MassHealth screening tool.