

FACT SHEET: Behavioral Health Providers

Effective March 1, 2018, as part of the Payment and Care Delivery Innovation (PCDI) initiative, MassHealth will be introducing new **Accountable Care Organization (ACOs)** to its 1.3 million managed care eligible members. These health plans are designed to emphasize care coordination and member-centric care, as well as align financial incentives.

MassHealth will continue to offer Managed Care Organizations (MCOs) and the Primary Care Clinician (PCC) Plan.

We've created this Fact Sheet to help **behavioral health providers** understand these payment and care delivery changes as they are introduced over the coming months.



Eligible Members

MassHealth managed care eligible members are:

- Younger than age 65, without any third-party insurance coverage (*including Medicare*)
- Living in the community (*not in a nursing facility*)
- Enrolled in one of the following MassHealth coverage types: *Standard, CommonHealth, CarePlus, or Family Assistance*

Available Plans

What health plans can these members join?

- Beginning **March 1, 2018**, MassHealth managed care eligible members will have the option to enroll in one of the following:
- *Accountable Care Partnership Plans*
 - *Primary Care ACOs*
 - *MCOs*
 - *Primary Care Clinician (PCC) Plan*

Who is Not Affected by These Changes?

PCDI does not affect members who receive MassHealth coverage through:

- *Fee-for-service*
- *One Care plans*
- *Senior Care Options (SCO) plans*
- *Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) organizations*

What is an ACO?

An ACO is a provider led health plan that holds participating providers financially accountable for both cost and quality of care for members. ACOs are composed of groups of primary care providers (PCPs) to whom members are attributed. In an ACO, the PCP and their team is responsible for working with the member and the ACO's network of providers to help coordinate care and connect the member with available services and supports.

Types of ACOs

- **Accountable Care Partnership Plans:** A network of PCPs who have exclusively partnered with an MCO to use the MCO's provider network to provide integrated and coordinated care for members.
- **Primary Care ACOs:** A network of PCPs who contract directly with MassHealth, using MassHealth's provider network, to provide integrated and coordinated care for members. Members who enroll in a Primary Care ACO receive behavioral health services through the Massachusetts Behavioral Health Partnership (MBHP).
- **MCO-Administered ACOs:** A network of PCPs who may contract with one or multiple MCOs, and use the MCO provider networks to provide integrated and coordinated care for members. MCO-Administered ACOs are not presented as an enrollment option for members because they will be attributed through their relevant MCO.

Behavioral Health Contractors

MCOs and Accountable Care Partnership Plans may provide BH services through their own network or utilize a BH contractor.

Provider Network

“If I am a behavioral health provider contracted with a ____, what managed care members am I in network for?”

	MEMBER POPULATION
MCO	Members enrolled in the MCO(s) you are contracted with (or the MCO’s contracted vendor. Please confirm with the MCO.)
Accountable Care Partnership Plan	Members enrolled in the Partnership Plan(s) you are contracted with (or the Partnership Plan’s contracted vendor. Please confirm with the Partnership Plan.)
PCC Plan/Primary Care ACOs	The PCC Plan and Primary Care ACOs utilize MassHealth’s BH contractor, currently the Massachusetts Behavioral Health Partnership (MBHP).

Prior Authorization/Medical and Pharmacy Claims

“If I am a behavioral health provider treating a patient enrolled in ____, who do I contact for any required Prior Authorization and where can I submit claims for payment?”

	SOURCE OF PA/PAYER
PCC Plan*	MBHP
Primary Care ACO*	MBHP
MCO	MCO or MCO’s BH contractor
Accountable Care Partnership Plan	Partnership Plan or Partnership Plan’s BH contractor

* Behavioral health pharmacy claims for members in the PCC Plan or a Primary Care ACO will be paid for through MassHealth.

Resources for Providers

For more information about these changes, and to register for trainings, please visit:

- www.mass.gov/masshealth-for-providers
- www.masshealthtraining.com

More Information

Community Partners

Effective June 1, 2018, Community Partners (CPs) will collaboratively work with ACOs and MCOs to provide care coordination to certain members identified by ACOs, MCOs, or MassHealth. Providers may also refer a member for supports from CPs by contacting the member’s health plan. Behavioral Health Community Partners will provide care management and care coordination to members with significant behavioral health needs. LTSS Community Partners will provide LTSS Care Coordination and navigation to members with complex LTSS needs. Providers will receive communication from their plans and MassHealth about the Community Partners program as the program launch date approaches.

Member Eligibility

Providers can continue to check member enrollment and eligibility using the Eligibility Verification System (EVS).

MassHealth will enhance the EVS messages so providers know which type of health plan, including ACOs, a member is enrolled in and whom to contact for questions. The EVS will also have messages containing contact information for behavioral health services for the member’s health plan, including contact information for BH contractors.

Member Assignment and Noticing

Effective **March 1, 2018**, current members will be assigned to an ACO, MCO, or the PCC Plan based on each member’s PCP relationship in mid-October, 2017. This process, known as special assignment, is designed to keep members with their PCP whenever possible. This means that members will be assigned to the health plan that their PCP joins. If a member prefers to follow providers other than their PCP, the member should contact those providers to find out what plans those providers are contracted with and then contact MassHealth customer service for assistance enrolling in a plan that is in their service area and has their preferred providers.

The member assignment and noticing dates below are for members with enrollments effective March 1, 2018. Members with enrollments effective after this date should contact MassHealth for information about their Plan Selection and Fixed Enrollment Periods.

- Member Noticing Begins—11/13/17
- Member Enrollments Effective—3/1/18
- Plan Selection Period—3/1/18–5/31/18
- Fixed Enrollment Period—6/1/18–2/28/19

Further information regarding continuity of care requirements as members and providers move to new health plans will be detailed in MassHealth Provider Bulletins.