

# Overview of MassHealth Enrollment for Justice-Involved Individuals



Executive Office of Health & Human Services

Connecting Justice-Involved Individuals to  
Coverage and Care Conference

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# Background

The ACA expansion of Medicaid means many inmates are eligible for the first time. This provides significant opportunity for Massachusetts to:

- Improve continuity of care for justice served populations and support reintegration into the community; and
- Take advantage of additional federal revenue to cover the cost of inpatient services provided to inmates.



# “Suspension” vs. “Termination”

Section 227 of Chapter 165 of the Acts of 2014 required MassHealth to suspend Medicaid benefits for inmates of penal institutions and reactivate benefits if the individual is admitted for inpatient hospitalization or upon release from incarceration.

- MassHealth currently has limited system functionality that would enable the suspension of benefits in an automated fashion.
- In response, MassHealth developed an interim process that simulates the “suspension” functionality.
- Future online eligibility systems enhancements are in development.



# MassHealth Implementation

- MassHealth worked collaboratively with the County Sheriff Departments and the Department of Correction to develop a process that addresses two key components:
  - Medicaid coverage for individuals within the correctional system who are provided services in a hospital inpatient setting during their incarceration period; and
  - An enhanced pre-release process for the approval of MassHealth medical benefits for those who qualify and are scheduled to be reintegrated into the community.
- In partnership, we developed a streamlined application process specifically for use by correctional facilities to ensure expeditious access to MassHealth benefits for both inpatient services and upon release.



# MassHealth Implementation, cont.

MassHealth is maximizing all benefits available to the Commonwealth and members. This includes:

- ✓ Ensuring continuity of care is achieved for members; and
- ✓ Maximization of Federal Financial Participation (FFP) resulting in increased revenue for the Commonwealth.



# Stakeholder Engagement

- MassHealth worked collaboratively with the County Sheriff Departments and the Department of Correction prior to implementation to develop a mutually achievable process.
- Two training sessions were held for DOC and HOC certified application counselors and staff:
  - June 23, 2015
  - June 25, 2015
- Full Implementation was July 1, 2015
- MassHealth communicates and gathers feedback regularly from stakeholders in order to refine its processes.



# Applying for Services – Inpatient Only Services

This applies to individuals within the correctional system who are provided services in a hospital inpatient setting during their incarceration period:

- MassHealth has created a limited benefit category that will cover only those services received when admitted to an inpatient facility for 24 hours or more.
- No other services will be covered during the time of incarceration (per federal rule).
- A dedicated unit in MassHealth processes the applications and if eligible, grants a limited inpatient benefit.
- The restricted benefit will expire upon release from the correctional facility.
- Full application is immediately activated in HIX allowing seamless access to full MassHealth benefits upon reentry into the community.



# Applying for Services – Pre-release Process

This applies to individuals scheduled to be reintegrated into the community:

- Thirty days prior to release into the community, correctional facilities will notify MassHealth of an individual's pre-release status and submit any necessary application materials.
- MassHealth will determine eligibility for comprehensive medical benefits and approve accordingly.
- The enhanced coordination of MassHealth benefits upon release from correctional facilities will:
  - Support reentry into the community; and
  - Ensure access to and the continuity of critical physical and behavioral health, including substance use treatment services, for individuals upon their release from correctional facilities.



# Looking to the Future

- Eligibility System automation
- Medicaid Administrative Claiming (MAC)
- MassHealth Delivery System Reform



# Questions?