



## New MassHealth Copay Policies: Implications for Infectious Disease Services

The following are frequently asked questions about recent changes to MassHealth policy regarding member cost-sharing, with a special emphasis on implications for infectious disease services. Changes are happening in two phases, which are identified as “Phase 1” and “Phase 2” below.

All current copay exclusions will remain in place.

### **1. What modifications are being made in Phase 1 of MassHealth’s changes to cost-sharing policies?**

MassHealth is eliminating certain copays for MassHealth members. Starting July 1, 2020, the following categories of MassHealth members are no longer subject to copays for pharmacy services: (1) MassHealth members whose income is at or below 50% of the federal poverty line (e.g., a household of four with an income of \$13,100 or less for the year); and (2) members whose MassHealth eligibility is based on their eligibility for another government benefit such as Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or Transitional Aid to Families with Dependent Children (TAFDC) (known as “referred eligible” members).<sup>1</sup>

Also starting July 1, 2020, the following services are no longer subject to copays for any MassHealth members:

1. FDA-approved medications for detoxification and maintenance treatment of substance use disorders (SUD);
2. preventive services rated Grade A or B by the United States Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) or MassHealth specific broader exclusions; and
3. vaccines and their administration recommended by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP).<sup>2</sup>

### **2. Which infectious disease medications are excluded from copay for MassHealth members as of July 1, 2020?**

Beginning July 1, 2020, MassHealth members will not be charged a copay for preexposure prophylaxis for the prevention of HIV (PrEP).<sup>3</sup> This applies to both Truvada and Descovy. Other medications that fall under preventive services rated Grade A and B by the USPSTF will also be excluded from copays. For a comprehensive list of medications, please refer to [MassHealth’s training forum document on the copay changes](#).<sup>4</sup>

### 3. Which vaccines are excluded from copays for MassHealth members as of July 1 2020? What about vaccine administration?

MassHealth is prohibiting copays for any ACIP-approved vaccine and its administration.<sup>5</sup> This includes the following:

- |                                |                            |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Anthrax                     | 12. MMRV                   |
| 2. BCG                         | 13. Meningococcal          |
| 3. Cholera                     | 14. Pneumococcal           |
| 4. DTaP/Tdap/Td                | 15. Polio                  |
| 5. Hepatitis A                 | 16. Rabies                 |
| 6. Hepatitis B                 | 17. Rotavirus              |
| 7. Hib                         | 18. Smallpox (Vaccinia)    |
| 8. Human papillomavirus        | 19. Typhoid                |
| 9. Influenza                   | 20. Varicella (Chickenpox) |
| 10. Japanese Encephalitis      | 21. Yellow Fever           |
| 11. Measles, Mumps and Rubella | 22. Zoster (Shingles)      |

**Remember!** Infectious disease screenings are free for MassHealth members. The following is a complete and updated list of screenings graded A or B by the USPSTF:<sup>6</sup>

1. Screening for chlamydia in sexually active women age 24 years and younger and in older women who are at increased risk for infection.
2. Screening for hepatitis B virus (HBV) infection in pregnant women at their first prenatal visit.
3. Screening for HBV infection in persons at high risk for infection.
4. Screening for hepatitis C virus (HCV) infection in adults aged 18 to 79 years.
5. Screening for HIV infection in all pregnant persons, including those who present in labor or at delivery whose HIV status is unknown.
6. Screening for HIV infection in adolescents and adults aged 15 to 65 years. Younger adolescents and older adults who are at increased risk of infection should also be screened.
7. Screening for latent tuberculosis infection (LTBI) in populations at increased risk.
8. Screening for syphilis infection in persons who are at increased risk for infection.
9. Early screening for syphilis infection in all pregnant women.

### 4. How will MassHealth members be notified of these changes?

For population-based changes (e.g., MassHealth members whose income is at or below 50% of the federal poverty line), MassHealth will notify affected members by mail.<sup>7</sup>

Pharmacies are required to post easily visible and readable notices that inform members of copay exclusions and instruct members to notify their providers if they believe they are excluded from copays.<sup>8</sup>

Providers can also explain these changes to MassHealth members during patient visits.

## 5. What changes will take effect in Phase 2, and when will Phase 2 begin?

Phase 2 of MassHealth's copay policy changes will take effect on January 1, 2021. There will no longer be a \$250 annual cap on pharmacy copays. Instead, pharmacy copays will change to a member-specific, monthly copay cap at or less than 2% of income for non-exempt adult members. Caps will be calculated at the individual level and will be based on a member's federal poverty level and household size. MassHealth members will be notified when there is a change to their copay cap amount and/or when they meet their copay cap for the month.

The policy changes implemented on July 1, 2020 will remain in effect.

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1 130 MASS. CODE REGS. 450.130(D).

2 130 MASS. CODE REGS. 450.130(E).

3 *A and B Recommendations*, U.S. PREVENTIVE SERVICES TASK FORCE, <https://www.uspreventiveservicestaskforce.org/uspstf/recommendation-topics/uspstf-and-b-recommendations> (last visited June 30, 2020).

4 MassHealth, Understanding MassHealth's Cost Sharing Policy Updates, HEALTH CARE TRAINING FORUM, [https://www.masshealthmtf.org/sites/default/files/Cost%20Sharing\\_Training\\_Updated\\_MTF%20deck.pdf](https://www.masshealthmtf.org/sites/default/files/Cost%20Sharing_Training_Updated_MTF%20deck.pdf) (last visited June 26, 2020).

5 Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices, *ACIP Vaccine Recommendations and Guidelines*, CDC.Gov, <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/acip-recs/index.html> (last visited June 30, 2020).

6 *A and B Recommendations*, U.S. PREVENTIVE SERVICES TASK FORCE, <https://www.uspreventiveservicestaskforce.org/uspstf/recommendation-topics/uspstf-and-b-recommendations> (last visited June 30, 2020).

7 See MASSHEALTH, PHARMACY FACTS No. 148 (June 18, 2020), <https://www.mass.gov/doc/pharmacy-facts-148-june-18-2020-0/download>.

8 130 MASS. CODE REGS. 450.130(F).