



## AFFORDABLE CARE ACT MASSACHUSETTS IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE

June 10, 2013

### Quick Links

[MA-ACA Website](#)



These Updates, published by the Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS) in consultation with the other state agencies involved in ACA implementation, will bring you news related to the implementation of provisions of the ACA here in Massachusetts.

### Grants and Demonstrations

The ACA provides funding opportunities to transform how health care is delivered, expand access to care and support healthcare workforce training.

### Grant Activity

For information about ACA grants awarded to and grant proposals submitted by the Commonwealth, visit the Grants page of the **Massachusetts National Health Care Reform website** at: [Mass.Gov](#)

### Guidance

**5/31/13 CMS/HHS issued a final rule "Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act: Establishment of Exchanges and Qualified Health Plans; Small Business Health Options Program."** The final rule implements portions of §1311(b) related to the Small Business Health Options Program (SHOP).

The final rule implements both the [proposed SHOP regulation](#) and amends [existing Exchange regulations](#) regarding triggering events and special enrollment periods for qualified employees and their dependents and would implement a transitional policy regarding employees' choice of qualified health plans (QHPs) in the SHOP. Beginning in 2014 each state that operates an Exchange must establish a SHOP which is designed to assist qualified small employers in providing health insurance options to their employees, including access to tax credits that make coverage more affordable.

Read the CMS Press Release at: [CMS.Gov](http://www.cms.gov)

Read the final rule (which was published in the Federal Register on June 4, 2013) at:  
<http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2013-06-04/pdf/2013-13149.pdf>

**5/31/13 CMS also released the applications that SHOP employers and employees will use** to apply for coverage beginning in October 1, 2013. The applications incorporate feedback received during two public comment periods.

View the SHOP Employer Application at:

<http://www.cms.gov/CCIIO/Resources/Forms-Reports-and-Other-Resources/Downloads/shop-employer-application-5-31-2013.pdf>

View the SHOP Employee Application at: <http://www.cms.gov/CCIIO/Resources/Forms-Reports-and-Other-Resources/Downloads/shop-employee-application-5-31-2013.pdf>

Prior guidance can be viewed at: [www.healthcare.gov](http://www.healthcare.gov)

## EOHHS News

### MassHealth Section 1115 Demonstration Amendment

EOHHS submitted a request to amend the MassHealth Section 1115 Demonstration to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) on June 4, 2013. The MassHealth Section 1115 Demonstration provides federal authority for Massachusetts to expand eligibility to individuals who are not otherwise Medicaid or CHIP eligible, offer services that are not typically covered by Medicaid, and use innovative service delivery systems that improve care, increase efficiency, and reduce costs.

The Demonstration amendment request outlines the specific authorities being requested from CMS to implement changes consistent with the Affordable Care Act (ACA), affecting eligibility, benefits, programs and delivery systems, as well as changes to expenditure authorities under the Demonstration. An attachment to the Amendment is a Transition Plan that explains in additional detail how the State plans to coordinate the transition of individuals enrolled in the Demonstration to a new coverage option available under the ACA without interruption in coverage to the maximum extent possible.

The proposed Amendment and Transition Plan and additional relevant information are available at: [Mass.Gov](http://www.mass.gov)

The Massachusetts Duals Demonstration is now called One Care: MassHealth plus Medicare. One Care is a new health care option for people with disabilities. One Care offers a better, simpler way for people to get the care they need. To join One Care, a person must be eligible for both MassHealth and Medicare and be 21 to 64 years old. For more information about One Care, please visit:

<http://www.mass.gov/masshealth/duals>

A revised timeline for the implementation of One Care is provided below. These changes have been agreed to by MassHealth and CMS following careful consideration of the time needed to achieve key milestones before enrollment of members into One Care plans begins.

Key dates in the revised timeline include:

Work Stream	Expected Date	Entity	Action
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Readiness Review	Mid-June	Plans	One Care plans resubmit provider networks
Outreach	July	MA	Public awareness campaign begins
Contract	Mid- July	CMS, MA and Plans	Three-way contracts signed
Implementation	August	MA and Plans	MassHealth and plan implementation readiness activities
Outreach	Sept. 1	MA	Self-selection letters sent to individuals in target population. Outreach to potential enrollees begins.
Marketing	Sept. 1	Plans	Plan marketing begins
Implementation	October 1	All	One Care start date, self-selection enrollments only
Implementation	November 1	MA	60 day notice sent to first auto-assignment group (individuals in C1 and F1 rating categories)
Implementation	January 1, 2014	Plans	Effective date for first wave of auto-assignment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2nd wave of auto-assignment effective tentatively April 1, 2014</li> <li>• Possible 3rd wave of auto-assignment tentatively July 1, 2014</li> </ul>

MassHealth thanks all stakeholders for continuing to work with us on this important initiative.

## Upcoming Events

### **Money Follows the Person (MFP) Transition Coordination RFA Bidders Conference**

June 12, 2013, 2:30 PM  
Worcester Senior Center  
128 Providence Street  
Worcester, MA

Requests for reasonable accommodations should be sent to [MFP@state.ma.us](mailto:MFP@state.ma.us)

### **Money Follows the Person (MFP) Stakeholder Meeting**

June 25, 2013  
2:00 PM - 3:00 PM  
McCormack Building, 21st Floor  
1 Ashburton Place  
Boston, MA

Please contact [MFP@state.ma.us](mailto:MFP@state.ma.us) if you would like to attend the meetings. Requests for reasonable accommodations should be sent to [MFP@state.ma.us](mailto:MFP@state.ma.us). Although an RSVP is not required, it is appreciated.

**Quarterly Affordable Care Act Implementation Stakeholder Meeting**

September 16, 2013

1:30 PM - 2:30 PM

1 Ashburton Place, 21st Floor

Boston, MA

Bookmark the **Massachusetts National Health Care Reform website** at:  
[National Health Care Reform](#) to read updates on ACA implementation in Massachusetts.

Remember to check the Mass.Gov website at: [Dual Eligibles](#) for information on the  
**"Integrating Medicare and Medicaid for Dual Eligible Individuals"** initiative.