



AFFORDABLE CARE ACT MASSACHUSETTS IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE

February 02, 2015

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: www.mass.gov/eohhs/gov/commissions-and-initiatives/healthcare-reform/national-health-care-reform-plan/grants-and-demonstrations.html

Guidance

1/26/15 IRS/Treasury issued Notice 2015-09, which provides limited relief for taxpayers who have a balance due on their 2014 income tax return as a result of reconciling advance payments of the health insurance premium tax credit against the premium tax credit allowed on the tax return.

As required under ACA §1401, 1411, and 1412 an Exchange makes an advance determination of tax credit eligibility for individuals who enroll in a qualified health plan (QHP) through the Exchange and pursue financial assistance. The amount of the advance credit payments is determined when an individual enrolls in a qualified health plan through an Exchange and is based on projected household income and family size for the year of coverage. A taxpayer claims the premium tax credit on the income tax return for the taxable year of coverage. The amount of the credit is based on actual household income and family size for the year reflected on the tax return. Under IRS rules, a taxpayer must reconcile, or compare, the amount of premium tax credit allowed on the tax return with advance credit payments. Changes in the circumstances on which the advance credit payments are based could result in a difference between the amount of advance credit payments and the premium tax credit to which the taxpayer is entitled. If advance credit payments are more than the premium tax credit allowed on the return, the difference (excess advance payments) is treated as additional tax and may result in either a smaller refund or a larger balance due (or, if the premium tax credit allowed is more than the advance credit payments made, the excess credit amount may result in a larger refund or lower balance due). Taxable year 2014 is the first year for which taxpayers will be required to reconcile advance credit payments with the premium tax credit.

Notice 2015-09 provides limited relief for taxpayers who have a balance due on their 2014 income tax return as a result of reconciling advance payments of the premium tax credit against the premium tax credit allowed on the tax return. Specifically, this Notice provides relief from the penalty under the Internal Revenue Code for late payment of a balance due and the penalty under the Code for underpayment of estimated tax. To qualify for the relief, taxpayers must meet certain requirements described in the notice. The relief applies only for the 2014 taxable year.

Read Notice 2015-09 at: www.irs.gov/pub/irs-drop/n-15-09.pdf

1/23/15 HHS/CMS issued a notice under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA) seeking comments on the extension of a currently approved information collection activity related to Annual Eligibility Redetermination, Product Discontinuation and Renewal Notices.

ACA §1411 directs the U.S. HHS Secretary to establish procedures to redetermine the eligibility of individuals for health insurance on a periodic basis in appropriate circumstances. §1321(a) provides authority for the Secretary to establish standards and regulations to implement the statutory requirements related to Exchanges, QHPs and other components of Title I of the ACA.

The [final rule](#) called "Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; Annual Eligibility Redeterminations for Exchange Participation and Insurance Affordability Programs; Health Insurance Issuer Standards Under the Affordable Care Act, Including Standards Related to Exchanges" (published in the Federal Register on September 2, 2014), specifies options for annual eligibility redeterminations and renewal and re-enrollment notice requirements for qualified health plans (QHPs) offered through the Exchange.

The final rule also amends the requirements for product renewal and re-enrollment (or nonrenewal) notices to be sent by QHP issuers in the Exchanges and specifies content for these notices. According to CMS, states that are enforcing the ACA may develop their own standard notices, for product discontinuances, renewals, or both, provided the State-developed notices are at least as protective as the federal standard notices.

Comments are due February 23, 2015.

Read the notice at: www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2015-01-23/pdf/2015-01127.pdf (see item #2)

Prior guidance can be found at: www.hhs.gov/healthcare/index.html

Upcoming Events

Integrating Medicare and Medicaid for Dual Eligible Individuals (also known as One Care) Implementation Council Meeting

Friday, March 13, 2015, 1:00 pm-3:00 pm
State Transportation Building
10 Park Plaza, Conference Rooms 2 & 3
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.



Follow **MassHealth** on YouTube!

To subscribe to receive the ACA Update, send an email to: ehs-ma-aca-update@listserv.state.ma.us. To unsubscribe from the ACA Update, send an email to: join-ehs-ma-aca-update@listserv.state.ma.us. Note: When you click on the sign up link, a blank e-mail should appear. If your settings prevent this, you may also copy and paste join-ehs-ma-aca-update@listserv.state.ma.us into the address line of a blank e-mail. Just send the blank e-mail as it's addressed. No text in the body or subject line is needed.