

ALERT #176

Date: February 26, 2018

CONTINUITY OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CARE FOR PCC PLAN MEMBERS DURING TRANSITIONS TO NEW ACCOUNTABLE CARE ORGANIZATIONS (ACOs) AND MANAGED CARE ORGANIZATIONS (MCOs)

The following information should be noted immediately by your chief executive officer, chief medical officer, chief operating officer, program director, quality management director, compliance officer, billing director, and staff.

Starting March 1, 2018, new Accountable Care Organization (ACO) and Managed Care Organization (MCO) contracts will become effective to improve accountability and integration of care for MassHealth Members. These new plans include:

- 13 new Accountable Care Partnership Plans;
- 3 new Primary Care Accountable Care Organizations;
- 2 Managed Care Organizations (MCOs); and
- MassHealth's Primary Care Clinician (PCC) Plan.

Accountable Care Partnership Plans and MCOs have their own network of providers, including behavioral health providers. Primary Care ACOs and the PCC Plan use the MassHealth provider network for medical services and the Massachusetts Behavioral Health Partnership (MBHP) network for behavioral health services.

Members whose primary care provider (PCP) of record is affiliated with an ACO (either Accountable Care Partnership Plan or Primary Care ACO) received information about that ACO and were prospectively enrolled into that ACO. All prospective enrollments are effective on March 1, 2018, unless the Member makes a different choice.

For more information on the MassHealth transition to ACOs and new plan options, visit <https://www.mass.gov/payment-care-delivery-innovation-pcdi-for-providers> or <https://www.mass.gov/masshealth-health-plan-choices-starting-march-1-2018>.

Beginning March 1, 2018, many current MassHealth Primary Care Clinician (PCC) Plan Members may no longer be enrolled in the PCC Plan. The Massachusetts Behavioral Health Partnership (MBHP) is committed to ensuring continuity of care for Members who are moving to new plans, whether they are going to or from an ACO Partnership Plan, Primary Care ACO, MCO, or the PCC Plan.

MBHP will continue to manage behavioral health care for Members of the PCC Plan, and MBHP will also be partnering with some, but not all, of the new MassHealth plan options. Please refer to the chart on page 2 to understand which of these plans MBHP will be working with beginning on March 1, 2018.

Member Plan	Member Eligible for MBHP Services?
Primary Care Accountable Care Organizations (3 Model B ACOs): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Care Cooperative (C3) • Partners HealthCare Choice • Steward Health Choice 	Yes. MBHP provides full range of mental health and substance use disorder services to Members of these plans.
Accountable Care Partnership Plans (13 Model A ACOs): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BeHealthy Partnership: Baystate Health Care Alliance with Health New England • Berkshire Fallon Health Collaborative: Berkshire Health Systems and Fallon Health • Boston Medical Center (BMC) HealthNet Plan Community Alliance: a partnership with Boston Accountable Care Organization • BMC HealthNet Plan Mercy Alliance: a partnership with Mercy Medical Center • BMC HealthNet Plan Signature Alliance: a partnership with Signature Healthcare • BMC HealthNet Plan Southcoast Alliance: a partnership with Southcoast Health • Fallon 365 Care: Reliant Medical Group with Fallon Health • MyCare Family: Merrimack Valley Health Partnership with Neighborhood Health Plan • Tufts Health Together with Atrius Health • Tufts Health Together with Beth Israel Deaconess Care Organization (BIDCO) • Tufts Health Together with Boston Children's ACO • Tufts Health Together with Cambridge Health Alliance (CHA) • Wellforce Care Plan: Wellforce with Fallon Health 	Yes for BeHealthy Partnership only. BeHealthy Partnership is the only Model A ACO eligible for MBHP's full range of behavioral health and substance use disorder services (<i>refer to the BeHealthy Partnership Alert</i>). No for all other Model A ACOs.
Managed Care Organizations (2 MCOs): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BMC HealthNet Plan • Tufts Health Together 	No.

Continuity of Care Period (March 1 – May 31, 2018)

Because many Members will be changing their health plans, on March 1, it is essential that Members have access to care and are able to continue treatments during their transitions to new plans. There will be a 90-day continuity of care period for behavioral health services so Members can continue to see their current behavioral health provider during this period even if the provider is not in the MBHP network.

Beginning March 1, 2018 all providers must check Members' eligibility and health plan information using the MassHealth Eligibility Verification System (EVS). EVS messaging will be very clear about which entity is responsible and pays for behavioral health services for any given Member. During the transition period, providers not in the MBHP network may continue to deliver services to Members showing in EVS as newly enrolled in the PCC Plan/MBHP or one of the Primary Care ACO plans; and must contact MBHP to apply to join the MBHP network in order to continue serving Members beyond the transition period. Conversely, MBHP-contracted providers delivering care to Members who are no longer enrolled in the PCC Plan/MBHP may continue to provide services to these Members during the transition period and must contact the new plan listed in EVS for contracting.

For PCC Plan/MBHP Members with a pre-existing authorization/registration with MBHP and no longer attributed to PCC Plan/MBHP

The new plan will honor pre-existing PCC Plan/MBHP authorizations during the continuity of care period. During the continuity of care period, providers should contact the new health plan to obtain a new authorization with that health plan for continuation of services beyond the continuity of care period.

For Members newly enrolled in plans that are covered by MBHP (PCC Plan/MBHP or Primary Care ACO) and who have a pre-existing authorization/registration with another plan

During this period, MBHP will honor active, pre-existing mental health and substance use disorder authorizations and registrations issued by other plans.

Please refer to the steps below for **MBHP authorization and claims submission procedures** during the continuity of care period beginning March 1, 2018.

<p align="center">Check EVS on March 1, 2018 and ongoing to verify Members' health plan coverage Is the Member covered by MBHP, either through the PCC Plan or one of the following Primary Care ACOs (Model B): Community Care Cooperative, Partners HealthCare Choice, or Steward Health Choice?</p>	
YES	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Member remains enrolled in the PCC Plan/MBHP: Continue with the usual notification/registration and/or authorization procedures with MBHP. All pre-existing authorizations/registrations remain open and billable. New authorizations/registrations need to be obtained when the current authorization expires or additional units are needed. Follow all existing practices as usual. 2. The Member is now enrolled in a Primary Care ACO, and current authorization was obtained through the PCC Plan/MBHP: Follow the steps in 1. above. 3. The Member is now enrolled in a Primary Care ACO, and current authorization was <i>not</i> obtained through the PCC Plan/MBHP: Obtain a new authorization/registration with MBHP. 4. All services listed on the MBHP Benefit Grid at https://masspartnership.com/provider/BenefitServiceGrid.aspx will continue to be covered for PCC Plan/MBHP Members and for Members in Primary Care ACOs. 5. Submit claims to MBHP for authorized dates of service starting March 1, 2018 when Member is covered by MBHP (PCC Plan/MBHP or Primary Care ACO).
NO	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Contact the Member's new health plan to receive a new authorization/registration for the Member's continued care. 2. Submit claims to the Member's new health plan for authorized dates of service starting March 1, 2018 when Member is covered by the new plan.

MBHP is committed to ensuring that Members continue to receive their services seamlessly during this period when many Members will be changing their health plans.

For more information on the Continuity of Care (CoC) period, please refer to MassHealth's CoC Memo dated February 21, 2018:

<https://www.mass.gov/files/documents/2018/02/22/Continuity%20of%20Care%20%2802-21%29.pdf>

To apply to join the MBHP network, contact MBHPNetworkOperations@beaconhealthoptions.com.

If you have questions regarding this *Alert*, please contact our Community Relations Department at **1-800-495-0086 (press 1 for the English menu or 2 for the Spanish menu, then 3 then 1 to skip prompts)**, Monday through Thursday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., and on Fridays from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.