

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Health and Human Services**

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Under the authority of M.G.L. c. 118E and in accordance with M.G.L. c. 30A, the Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS) will hold a remote public hearing on Friday, September 13, 2024, at 1:00 p.m. relative to the adoption of amendments to the following regulation.

101 CMR 315.00: Rates for Vision Care Services and Ophthalmic Materials

The proposed regulation contains rates effective for dates of service on or after February 1, 2025.

The proposed amendments increase the current rates by a prospective cost adjustment factor (CAF) of 2.66%, excluding any rates established as Individual Consideration (IC). This CAF was calculated using a base period of quarter four of calendar year 2024, and a two-year prospective rate period of quarter one of calendar year 2025 through quarter four of calendar year 2026. The CAF was calculated using the Massachusetts-specific Consumer Price Index (CPI) Fall 2023 forecast developed by IHS Markit Economics. Rates for certain dispensing services (codes 92340, 92340 RB, 92341, 92341 RB, 92342, and 92342 RB) are proposed to be further increased by an administrative adjustment of 6.5%.

EOHHS is proposing these changes, subject to federal approval, to ensure that payments are consistent with efficiency, economy, and quality of care and satisfy the requirements of M.G.L. 118E, sections 13C and 13D. It is estimated that annual aggregate MassHealth expenditures will increase by \$694,000 as a result of the proposed amendments. There is no fiscal impact on cities and towns. The proposed amendments are not anticipated to impose new costs on small businesses, and any impact on small business providers will vary based on the volume of services provided.

To register to testify at the hearing and to get instructions on how to join the hearing online, go to www.mass.gov/info-details/executive-office-of-health-and-human-services-public-hearings. To join the hearing by phone, call (646) 558-8656 and enter meeting ID 935 397 8200# when prompted.

You may also submit written testimony instead of, or in addition to, live testimony. To submit written testimony, please email your testimony to ehs-regulations@mass.gov as an attached Word or PDF document or as text within the body of the email with the name of the regulation in the subject line. All written testimony must include the sender's full name, mailing address, and organization or affiliation, if any. Individuals who are unable to submit testimony by email should mail written testimony to EOHHS, c/o D. Briggs, 100 Hancock Street, 6th Floor, Quincy, MA 02171. Written testimony will

be accepted through 5:00 p.m. on September 13, 2024. EOHHS specifically invites comments as to how the amendments may affect beneficiary access to care for MassHealth-covered services.

To review the current draft of the proposed regulation, go to www.mass.gov/info-details/executive-office-of-health-and-human-services-public-hearings or request a copy in writing from MassHealth Publications, 100 Hancock Street, 6th Floor, Quincy, MA 02171.

Special accommodation requests may be directed to the Disability Accommodations Ombudsman by email at ADAAccommodations@mass.gov or by phone at (617) 847-3468 (TTY: (617) 847-3788 for people who are deaf, hard of hearing, or speech disabled). Please allow two weeks to schedule sign language interpreters.

EOHHS may adopt a revised version of the proposed regulation taking into account relevant comments and any other practical alternatives that come to its attention.

In case of inclement weather or other emergency, hearing cancellation announcements will be posted on the MassHealth website at www.mass.gov/info-details/executive-office-of-health-and-human-services-public-hearings.

August 16, 2024

Small Business Impact Statement

(As required by M.G.L. c. 30A §§ 2, 3 & 5)

CMR No: 101 CMR 315.00: Rates for Vision Care Services and Ophthalmic Materials

Estimate of the Number of Small Businesses Impacted by the Regulation: There are approximately 796 optometrists, 100 opticians, and 4 ocularists who are actively billing MassHealth (meaning they've billed a claim within the past 365 days).

Select Yes or No and Briefly Explain

Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Will small businesses have to create, file, or issue additional reports? No. The proposed amendments will not require small businesses to create, file, or issue additional reports.
Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Will small businesses have to implement additional recordkeeping procedures? No. The proposed amendments will not require small businesses to implement additional recordkeeping procedures.
Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Will small businesses have to provide additional administrative oversight? No. The proposed amendments will not require small businesses to provide additional administrative oversight.
Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Will small businesses have to hire additional employees in order to comply with the proposed regulation? No. The proposed amendments will not require small businesses to hire additional employees in order to comply with the proposed regulation.
Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Does compliance with the regulation require small businesses to hire other professionals (e.g. a lawyer, accountant, engineer, etc.)? No. The proposed amendments will not require small businesses to hire other professionals to comply with the regulation.
Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Does the regulation require small businesses to purchase a product or make any other capital investments in order to comply with the regulation? No. The proposed amendments will not require small businesses to purchase a product or make any other capital investments in order to comply with the regulation.
Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Are performance standards more appropriate than design/operational standards to accomplish the regulatory objective? (Performance standards express requirements in terms of outcomes, giving the regulated party flexibility to achieve regulatory objectives and design/operational standards specify exactly what actions regulated parties must take.) No. M.G.L. c. 118E § 13D requires EOHHS to establish and periodically review rates to be paid by governmental units for noninstitutional health care services, including vision care services.
Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Do any other regulations duplicate or conflict with the proposed regulation? No. No other regulations duplicate or conflict with the proposed regulation.
Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Does the regulation require small businesses to cooperate with audits, inspections or other regulatory enforcement activities? No. The proposed amendments will not require small businesses to cooperate with audits, inspections, or other regulatory enforcement activities.

Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Does the regulation require small businesses to provide educational services to keep up to date with regulatory requirements? No. The proposed amendments will not require small businesses to provide educational services to keep up to date with regulatory requirements.
Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Is the regulation likely to <i>deter</i> the formation of small businesses in Massachusetts? No. The proposed amendments are unlikely to deter or encourage the formation of small businesses in Massachusetts as this regulation governs payments for vision care services provided to publicly aided individuals and is applied uniformly among providers.
Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Is the regulation likely to <i>encourage</i> the formation of small businesses in Massachusetts? No. The proposed amendments to the regulation are unlikely to deter or encourage the formation of small businesses in Massachusetts as this regulation governs payments for vision care services provided to publicly aided individuals and is applied uniformly among providers.
Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Does the regulation provide for less stringent compliance or reporting requirements for small businesses? No. The proposed amendments do not distinguish between small and other businesses.
Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Does the regulation establish less stringent schedules or deadlines for compliance or reporting requirements for small businesses? No. The proposed amendments do not distinguish between small and other businesses.
Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Did the agency consolidate or simplify compliance or reporting requirements for small businesses? No. The proposed amendments do not distinguish between small and other businesses.
Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Can performance standards for small businesses replace design or operational standards without hindering delivery of the regulatory objective? No. Distinguishing small businesses from other businesses would not be practicable to implement the proposed regulation.
Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Are there alternative regulatory methods that would minimize the adverse impact on small businesses? No. The regulation is required by statute and does not have an adverse impact on small businesses.