

**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, October 20, 2023, at 9 a.m. relative to the adoption of amendments to the following regulation.

**101 CMR 347.00: Rates for Freestanding Ambulatory Surgery Center Services**

The proposed regulation contains rates effective for dates of service on or after February 2, 2024. There is no fiscal impact on cities and towns.

Under M.G.L. Chapter 118E, Section 13D, the Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS) is required to establish and periodically review the rates to be paid by governmental units for non-institutional health care services, including rates of payment for freestanding ambulatory surgery center services (FASC). EOHHS is proposing to maintain current rates for all FASC services established in 101 CMR 347.00. EOHHS is also proposing to expand coverage by adding 76 procedure codes as payable codes under the MassHealth FASC program. These additional procedure codes will be added to the MassHealth program regulation under Subchapter 6. In addition, the proposed amendments will update procedure codes in accordance with the January 2023 Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Ambulatory Surgery Center (ASC) file.

The estimated annual aggregate fiscal impact of the proposed amendments is \$1.1 million.

EOHHS is making these changes, subject to federal approval, to ensure that payments are reasonable and adequate to meet the costs that must be incurred by efficiently and economically operated facilities, and to ensure that payment rates are consistent with efficiency, economy, and quality of care.

To register to testify at the hearing and to get instructions on how to join the hearing online, go to [www.mass.gov/service-details/executive-office-of-health-and-human-services-public-hearings](http://www.mass.gov/service-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](mailto: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, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor, Quincy, MA 02171. Written testimony will be accepted through 5:00 p.m. on October 20, 2023. 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/service-details/executive-office-of-health-and-human-services-public-hearings](http://www.mass.gov/service-details/executive-office-of-health-and-human-services-public-hearings) or request a copy in writing from MassHealth Publications, 100 Hancock Street, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor, Quincy, MA 02171.

Special accommodation requests may be directed to the Disability Accommodations Ombudsman by email at [ADAAccommodations@mass.gov](mailto: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/service-details/executive-office-of-health-and-human-services-public-hearings](http://www.mass.gov/service-details/executive-office-of-health-and-human-services-public-hearings).

September 22, 2023

## Small Business Impact Statement

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

**CMR No: 101 CMR 347.00: Rates for Freestanding Ambulatory Surgery Center Services**

**Estimate of the Number of Small Businesses Impacted by the Regulation: 39 freestanding ambulatory surgery centers (FASCs) providing FASC services.**

### 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. Small businesses will not have 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. Small businesses will not have to implement additional recordkeeping procedures.
Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Will small businesses have to provide additional administrative oversight? No. Small businesses will not have 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. Small businesses will not have 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. Small businesses are not required 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. Small businesses are not required 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. The regulation is required by statute under MGL Chapter 118E Section 13C and establishes the rates to be paid by governmental units to providers of non-institutional health 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Does the regulation require small businesses to cooperate with audits, inspections or other regulatory enforcement activities? Yes. The regulation continues to require providers to periodically comply with audits, inspections, and other regulatory 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 regulatory amendments do not require small businesses to provide educational services to keep up 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 regulation is unlikely to deter or encourage the formation of small businesses in Massachusetts as this regulation governs payments for FASC 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 regulation is unlikely to deter or encourage the formation of small businesses in Massachusetts as this regulation governs payments for FASC 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. This regulation requires providers to submit documentation requested by the Commonwealth for purposes of utilization and provider review to ensure compliance with requirements, including the timelines for reporting, and the regulation is applied uniformly among all providers.
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. This regulation requires providers to submit documentation requested by the Commonwealth for purposes of utilization and provider review to ensure compliance with requirements, including the timelines for reporting, and the regulation is applied uniformly among all providers.
Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Did the agency consolidate or simplify compliance or reporting requirements for small businesses? No. This regulation requires providers to submit documentation requested by the Commonwealth for purposes of utilization and provider review to ensure compliance with requirements, including the timelines for reporting, and the regulation is applied uniformly among all providers.
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. The regulation establishes uniform conditions of payment for the provision of services to publicly aided individuals. These requirements are applied uniformly to maintain consistency in the care provided to publicly aided individuals.
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 does not have an adverse impact on small businesses and governs payments for FASC services provided to publicly aided individuals and is applied uniformly among providers.