Member Handbook

Effective February 1, 2026

WellSense Mercy Alliance

Accountable Care Organization

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wellsense.org/mercy

WellSense HEALTH PLAN

Multilanguage Interpreter Services

Important! This is about your WellSense Health Plan benefits. We can translate it for you free of charge. Please call **888-566-0010 (TTY: 711)** for translation help.

¡Importante! Esta información es sobre sus beneficios de WellSense Health Plan. Podemos traducirlo para usted de forma gratuita. Llame al **888-566-0012 (TTY: 711)** para obtener ayuda de traducción. (ESA)

Importante! Esta comunicação é sobre os benefícios da WellSense Health Plan. Podemos traduzir para você gratuitamente. Ligue para **888-566-0010 (TTY: 711)** para obter ajuda com a tradução. (PTB)

重要提示！此信息与您的 WellSense Health Plan 福利有关，我们可免费提供翻译。如需获得翻译服务，请拨打 **888-566-0010 (TTY: 711)**。(CHS)

Enpotan! Sa a se sou avantaj WellSense Health Plan ou an. Nou ka tradui li pou ou gratis. Tanpri relel **888-566-0010 (TTY: 711)** pou jwenn èd ak tradiksyon. (HRV)

Quan trọng! Đây là thông tin về quyền lợi trong WellSense Health Plan của quý vị. Chúng tôi có thể dịch thông tin này miễn phí cho quý vị. Vui lòng gọi số **888-566-0010 (TTY: 711)** để được trợ giúp dịch thuật. (VIT)

Важно! Здесь содержится информация о преимуществах вашего медицинского страхового плана WellSense Health Plan. Мы можем перевести для вас этот документ бесплатно. За помощью в переводе позвоните по телефону **888-566-0010 (TTY: 711)**. (RUS)

Σημαντικό! Πρόκειται για τις παροχές του WellSense Health Plan. Μπορούμε να σας το μεταφράσουμε δωρεάν. Καλέστε στο **888-566-0010 (TTY: 711)** για βοήθεια σχετικά με τη μετάφραση. (ELG)

هام! هذا حول مزايا WellSense Health Plan الخاصة بك. يمكننا ترجمتها لك مجانا. يرجى الاتصال **888-566-0010 (TTY: 711)** للمساعدة في الترجمة. (ARA)

महत्वपूर्ण! यह आपके WellSense Health Plan लाभों के बारे में है। हम आपके लिए इसका निःशुल्क अनुवाद कर सकते हैं। कृपया अनुवाद संबंधित सहायता के लिए **888-566-0010 (TTY: 711)** पर फ़ोन करें। (HIN)

중요! 이것은 WellSense Health Plan 혜택에 대한 내용입니다. 무료로 번역해 드릴 수 있습니다. 번역 도움이 필요하면 **888-566-0010 (TTY: 711)**번으로 문의하십시오. (KOR)

ចំណុចសំខាន់! ព័ត៌មាននេះគឺ ស្តីអំពីអត្ថប្រយោជន៍នៃ WellSense Health Plan របស់អ្នក។ យើងអាចបកប្រែវាសម្រាប់អ្នកដោយឥតគិតថ្លៃ។ សូមទូរសព្ទទៅលេខ **888-566-0010 (TTY: 711)** សម្រាប់ជំនួយផ្នែកបកប្រែ។ (KHM)

MAMCD

Ważne! To dotyczy Twoich świadczeń w ramach planu zdrowotnego WellSense Health Plan. Możemy nieodpłatnie przetłumaczyć dla Ciebie te informacje. Zadzwoń pod numer **888-566-0010 (TTY: 711)**, aby uzyskać pomoc w tłumaczeniu. (POL)

ສິ່ງສຳຄັນ! ນີ້ແມ່ນກ່ຽວກັບຜົນປະໂຫຍດຂອງແຜນປະກັນ WellSense Health Plan ຂອງທ່ານ. ພວກເຮົາສາມາດແປພາສາໃຫ້ທ່ານໄດ້ໂດຍບໍ່ເສຍຄ່າ. ກະລຸນາໂທ **888-566-0010 (TTY: 711)** ເພື່ອຂໍຄວາມຊ່ວຍເຫຼືອໃນການແປພາສາ. (LAO)

Important! This material can be requested in an accessible format by calling 888-566-0010 (TTY: 711).

Notice About Nondiscrimination and Accessibility

WellSense Health Plan complies with applicable federal civil rights laws and does not discriminate, exclude people, or treat them differently on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, limited English proficiency, primary language, or moral or religious grounds (including limiting or not providing coverage for counseling or referral services). WellSense Health Plan provides:

- free aids and services to people with disabilities to communicate effectively with us, such as TTY, qualified sign language interpreters and written information in other formats (large print, audio, accessible electronic formats, other formats)
- free language services to people whose primary language is not English, such as qualified interpreters and information written in other language

Please contact WellSense if you need any of the services listed above and we will provide them in a timely manner. You can also find this information at the bottom of wellsense.org in the Nondiscrimination Section.

Civil Rights Coordinator
100 City Square, Suite 200
Charlestown, MA 02129
Phone: 888-566-0010 (TTY: 711)
Fax: 617-897-0805

You can also file a civil rights complaint with the U.S. DHHS, Office for Civil Rights by mail, by phone or online at:

U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, SW
Room 509F, HHH Building
Washington, D.C. 20201
800-368-1019 (TDD: 800-537-7697)

Complaint Portal:
hhs.gov/ocr/office/file/index.html

If you need these services, contact WellSense Health Plan. If you believe that WellSense has failed to provide these services or discriminated in another way on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, or sex, you can file a complaint with:

WellSense Health Plan, Attn: Civil Rights Coordinator, 100 City Square, Suite 200, Charlestown, MA 02129

Phone: 888-566-0010 (TTY/TDD 711)
Fax: 617-897-0805
Hours: Monday-Friday 8a.m. - 6p.m.

You can file a complaint in person or by mail, fax, or e-mail MemberQuestions@wellsense.org. If you need help filing a complaint, WellSense Health Plan is available to help you.

You can file a complaint with MassHealth

Fill out the **MassHealth Discrimination Complaint Form**, available at: MassHealth Discrimination Complaint Procedure | Mass.gov

Mail, Fax, or Email the form to the Compliance Coordinator:

Mail:
Section 1557 Compliance Coordinator
1 Ashburton Place, 10th Floor
Boston, MA 02108

Fax: (617) 889-7862

Email: **Section1557Coordinator@state.ma.us**

You can also file a civil rights complaint with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services,

Office for Civil Rights, electronically through the Office for Civil Rights Complaint Portal, available at ocrportal.hhs.gov/ocr/portal/lobby.jsf, or by mail or phone at:

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

200 Independence Avenue, SW, Room 509F, HHH Building, Washington, D.C. 20201

Phone: 800-368-1019, 800-537-7697 (TDD)

Complaint forms are also available at hhs.gov/ocr/office/file/index.html.

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Chapter 1: Getting started as an ACO Plan Member

Section 1.1 Welcome to our Accountable Care Organization (ACO) Plan

You are enrolled in a WellSense Accountable Care Organization (ACO) Plan. Our plan is a Massachusetts licensed health maintenance organization and a not-for-profit Medicaid managed care organization. We contract with Massachusetts Medicaid (called MassHealth) to provide you all your MassHealth benefits, and more. In this Handbook, WellSense often calls itself "we" or "us."

We offer many ACO Plans. The name of your ACO Plan is on the inside front cover of this Handbook. You are on our ACO Plan because you chose us or were assigned to us by MassHealth. While you are enrolled in one of our ACO Plans, you are our "Member." We will send you an ACO Plan Member ID Card. **The name of the ACO Plan you are in can be found on the front of your Member ID Card.** This Member Handbook applies to your ACO Plan.

Section 1.2 What is an ACO Plan?

An ACO Plan is a type of health plan that is responsible for giving you access to quality health care. Each of our ACO Plans is made up of a Network of Providers that partner with us. The Network includes Primary Care Providers (PCPs) as well as other Providers. For example, it includes Specialists, hospitals, pharmacies, and Behavioral Health Providers. The PCPs in your ACO Plan do not work with any other ACO Plans. Your PCP and their team work with you and other Providers in the ACO Plan's Provider Network to help you get the right care at the right time in the right place.

Your ACO Plan provides:

- All your MassHealth benefits (called "Covered Services").
- Some "extra" benefits.

Covered Services and "extra" benefits are described in Chapter 5 (Covered Services) and in the back of this Handbook. (See the document titled "Prior Authorization (PA) and Referral Requirements for Covered Services for WellSense Accountable Care Organization Plan (ACO Plan) Members," which is also referred to as the "Covered Services List"). Also, each of our ACO Plans may offer special health programs to help you with your health care needs. We will send you more information about these special programs. The information we send you about these special programs is part of this Handbook.

As a Member of one of our ACO Plans:

- You must live in the Service Area of our ACO Plan. The "Service Areas" are groups of cities or towns that a Member must live in so that they can enroll in the specific ACO Plan. The Service Area you live in will determine which ACOs you are eligible to join. You have been enrolled in one of our ACOs that covers the Service Area in which you live. To learn more about Service Areas, consult your MassHealth Enrollment Guide or visit masshealthchoices.com.
- You must choose a PCP who is in your ACO Plan, or one will be assigned to you.
- You can change your PCP at any time to another PCP within the same ACO Plan.
- You must receive all Covered Services from your ACO Plan Network Providers. There are exceptions for certain situations described later in this Handbook.
- You may be able to get the services of a Behavioral Health or Long-Term Services and Supports (LTSS) Community Partner. (See Section 7.4.)

  Most Members will have a Plan Selection Period and a Fixed Enrollment Period. (See Chapter 12.)

Section 1.3 What makes you eligible to be an ACO Plan Member?

MassHealth, not us, decides whether you can get MassHealth benefits. If MassHealth approves your application, MassHealth allows you to enroll in certain types of MassHealth health plans. In this case, you chose, or have been assigned, to enroll in one of our ACO Plans. Therefore, you are now our Member.

Section 1.4 Can you change your ACO Plan?

There are special rules for when you can and cannot change your ACO Plan to another MassHealth health plan. Most Members enrolled in an ACO Plan may only change their health plan during a certain time. This 90-day time period, which occurs every year, is called their "Plan Selection Period." MassHealth will notify you when this period starts. During that time, you can change your health plan for any reason.

When your Plan Selection Period has ended, you cannot change your health plan except for certain reasons—with MassHealth approval. The period of time that you are not allowed to change your health plan is called the "Fixed Enrollment Period."

Certain members are allowed to change their health plan at any time. See Chapter 12 to learn more about changing your ACO Plan and the reasons that you can change health plans.

To change health plans during either Period described above, or if you have questions about your health plan choices, you must call the MassHealth Customer Service Center at 800-841-2900, TDD/TTY 800-497-4648 Monday - Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Section 1.5 Renewing your MassHealth Coverage

Each year you must renew your MassHealth benefits. In some cases, MassHealth can renew your coverage automatically. If they are unable to do so, MassHealth will send you a reminder letter to let you know. Here are the different ways you can renew:

Go to MAhealthconnector.org and sign in to your user account.

- If you do not have an account, use the web link provided in your MassHealth renewal letter to create an account. You can also call MassHealth Customer Service at 800-841-2900, TDD/TTY 800-497-4648 Monday – Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. to get help creating your online account. (You will need an e-mail address.)
- If you have an account, but do not know your username and/or password, you can "reset" them on the website.
- If you do not remember creating an online account, you **do not** need to complete a new application. Go to MAhealthconnector.org. There you can try to reset your username and password. Or, call MassHealth Customer Service at 800-841-2900/TTY 800-497-4648, Monday-Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. for help. Interpreter services are available.
- Once you have access to your account, review the information on your renewal application. This is the fastest and easiest way to renew your MassHealth coverage.
- Use the form with your information that came with your MassHealth renewal letter. It is already filled out with your household information.
- **Step 1:** If you need to make updates, follow the instructions on the form. Make sure your handwriting is easy to read.
- **Step 2:** Sign and date the form. Then mail **ALL PAGES** to Health Insurance Processing Center, P.O. Box 4405, Taunton, MA 02780, or fax to 857-323- 8300.

Renew by Phone.

- Call MassHealth at 800-841-2900/TTY 800-497-4648, Monday- Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.to renew by phone. Interpreter services are available.

Renew in Person.

You can get free, in-person help from a trained, certified enrollment assister. To find one

near you use The MassHealth Connector Enrollment Assister Search at my.mahealthconnector.org/enrollment-assisters. Enrollment Assisters, such as Navigators and Certified Application Counselors (CACs) are trained and certified individuals at organizations in your area that can help you apply for coverage, shop for plans, answer your questions about your eligibility, payments, plan details and health care reform rules and requirements. **Help from an Enrollment Assister is free for people of any income level.**

Section 1.6 What to expect from us

About this Member Handbook

This Handbook was created to explain how your ACO Plan works. It describes services covered by us or by MassHealth. It also lists services not covered by us or MassHealth. This Handbook also explains the cost to you for any Covered Services, any extra benefits, and whom to call if you have questions. This Handbook is also available on our website at wellsense.org.

Some words in this Member Handbook have special meanings. These words are capitalized throughout the Handbook. Their meanings can be found in Chapter 16.

We must follow all of the rules in this Handbook. If you think we have done something that goes against these rules, you may make a Complaint (Grievance) or file an Appeal, depending on the situation. See Chapter 11.

Please keep in mind that the information contained in this Member Handbook may change from time to time. Always visit wellsense.org or please call our Member Service Department at 888-566-0010 (English/Other Language), 888-566-0012 (Spanish) or TDD/TTY: 711, Monday - Friday from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. for the most up-to-date information.

Language Translation and information in other formats

We offer ACO Plan information in other formats. This is also called "alternative formats." These are for Members who have limited reading abilities or who need language help services.

This means we can give you information in other ways. For example, we can give you your documents in braille, large type size, and different languages. We have staff who speak non- English languages. We offer free translation services in over 200 languages. If you need this Handbook or other written documents translated into another language, or need someone to read this or other printed information to you, please call our Member Service Department at 888-566-0010 (English/Other Language), 888-566-0012 (Spanish) or

TDD/TTY: 711, Monday - Friday from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

New Members—welcome call and information we will send you

When you first join the ACO Plan, you will get a packet of Member materials. This packet will have this Handbook and an ACO Plan Member ID Card. We will also call you to welcome you to the ACO Plan. During this call, we will explain ACO Plan rules, your benefits, and answer any questions. This is a good time for you to ask questions about what is and is not covered under your ACO Plan benefits. If we cannot reach you, please call our Member Service Department at 888-566-0010 (English/Other Language), 888-566-0012 (Spanish) or TDD/TTY: 711, Monday

- Friday from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. We are here and happy to speak with you.

Help us understand your health needs—"Care Needs Screening"

Your new Member packet also has a special form. It is called a Care Needs Screening (CNS). The CNS helps us better understand your health needs and how to help you stay healthy. It has questions that help us learn your medical, Behavioral Health, and other health needs. It is important that you fill out the CNS and return it to us. Send it to us in the postage-paid envelope that is given to you. You can also fill out your CNS online. Just go to the Member section at wellsense.org. If you do not fill out your CNS, one of our Member Service staff may call you and ask if you are willing to answer the questions over the phone. Filling out the CNS does not affect your ability to get coverage or your health benefits in any way. Please respond to this screening within 90 days of your date of enrollment. We will keep your health information (Protected Health Information, or "PHI") confidential (private) as required by law. (See Chapter 13.)

Additional Available Screenings and Assessments Screenings

In addition to the Care Needs Screening, you may also be asked to participate in a Health Related Social Needs (HRSN) Screening. The screening will be used to identify social needs, including but not limited to:

- housing insecurity
- food insecurity
- economic stress
- lack of access to transportation
- experience of violence

Also included may be questions for:

- members up to the age of 21, regarding school and education-related needs
- members between the age of 21 and 45, employment support and needs
- members aged 45 and older, social isolation concerns

As a result of this screening, you may inquire into services or assistance related to these concerns.

See the table below for a list of HRSN Supplemental Services which are available to certain eligible members through MassHealth. You may also be referred to other programs to address these concerns.

Assessments

At a minimum, a comprehensive assessment will be provided to members with the following, including but not limited to:

- special health care needs
- high or rising-risk Members enrolled in enhance care coordination
- BH CP or LTSS CP members

This assessment will include the member's:

- care needs
- functional needs
- accessibility needs
- goals
- other needs

These assessments and screenings will help determine what care the member needs in addition to any care coordination activities. These screenings and assessments may take place at a location of the member's choice. Included in these screening and assessments are:

- any services being provided by state agencies,
- health conditions,
- medications,
- ability to communicate concerns, symptoms, etc.,
- functional status and needs, including

- LTSS needs,
- Activities of Daily Living (ADL) or Instrumental Activities of Daily Living (IADL) needs,
- mental health and substance use if appropriate, and
- for members under age 21, any educational supports and services, etc.

We will ensure that all members receive the covered services and appropriate follow-up care based on the needs identified in the above assessments and screenings, including care coordination.

Health-Related Social Needs (HRSN) Supplemental Services

MassHealth has created a new program called Health-Related Social Needs (HRSN) Supplemental Services, which support certain qualifying members with housing and nutrition needs. To qualify, members must be enrolled in either MassHealth Standard, CommonHealth, Family Assistance, or CarePlus, and be actively enrolled in a WellSense MassHealth ACO plan. In addition, members must meet HRSN eligibility criteria, such as meeting a risk factor for the service and meeting the Health Needs Based Criteria (HNBC) for the service. HRSN eligibility criteria is established by MassHealth. HRSN services are not subject to the Utilization Management process we use to make sure the care you get is "medically necessary" care. We follow MassHealth's ACO Health- Related Social Needs (HRSN) Services eligibility guidelines. More information can be found at mass.gov/masshealth-health-related-social-needs-services.

If you do not agree with our assessment, or a provider's assessment of your eligibility for HRSN Supplemental Services, you may file a grievance. See Chapter 11, Section 11.15 for more information on how to do so. Members do not have appeal rights for HRSN Supplemental Services.

The chart below describes the HRSN Supplemental Services which are available to members who qualify.

HRSN Supplemental Services – Nutrition Category 1 Services

Nutrition Category 1 Services are services that provide food. These food services can improve, steady, or prevent the worsening of a member's health.

Service	Description

Nutritionally Appropriate Food Prescriptions and Vouchers	These are food vouchers and grocery store gift cards to buy food that helps a member get the right nutrition. These services are for members experiencing very low food security.

HRSN Supplemental Services – Nutrition Category 2

Nutrition Category 2 Services are services that increase the success and impact of the Nutrition Category 1 services. This is done through nutrition education, goods, like cooking supplies and services other than food, like cooking classes.

Service	Description
Kitchen Supplies	These are services that can help a member pay for cooking supplies like pots and pans. Things that are needed to meet a member's nutritional and dietary needs.
Nutrition Counseling	These are group classes or 1-on-1 sessions with a medical professional where nutrition help is given. These services are for members experiencing very low food security.
Nutrition Education Classes and Skills Development	These are group classes or 1-on-1 sessions to help a member get their nutritional and dietary needs. These services are for members experiencing very low food security.

HRSN Supplemental Services – Housing

HRSN Housing services can help a member locate housing, get services to improve their home situation, or help them pay for certain things related to housing needs.

Service	Description
Healthy Homes	These are services that include goods and services that are shown to improve housing conditions related to health needs. These are services that do not fall on the

	landlord or property owner. These are things like fans or air purifiers.
Housing Search	These are services that can help a member with finding, moving into, and keeping housing. These services are available to members experiencing homelessness.
Transitional Goods	These are services that can help a member with paying for move-in costs, like movers or security deposits, items for the new home, and other items to make a new house livable and comfortable.

Items and Services Excluded from HRSN Supplemental Services

- Construction costs (bricks and mortar) or capital investments;
- Room and board outside of specifically enumerated care or housing transitions;
- Research grants and expenditures not related to monitoring and evaluation;
- Costs of services in prisons, correctional facilities or services for people who are civilly committed and unable to leave an institutional setting, except those HRSN-related case management services provided as part of an approved reentry demonstration initiative;
- Services provided to individuals who are not lawfully present in the United States or are undocumented;
- Expenditures that supplant services and activities funded by other state and federal governmental entities;
- School-based programs for children that supplant Medicaid state plan programs or that are funded under the Department of Education and/or state or the local education agency; or
- Any other projects or activities not specifically approved by CMS as qualifying for coverage as a HRSN item or service under this demonstration.

Section 1.7 Your ACO Plan Member ID card

Your ACO Plan Member ID card— use it to get all Covered Services. This includes prescription drugs

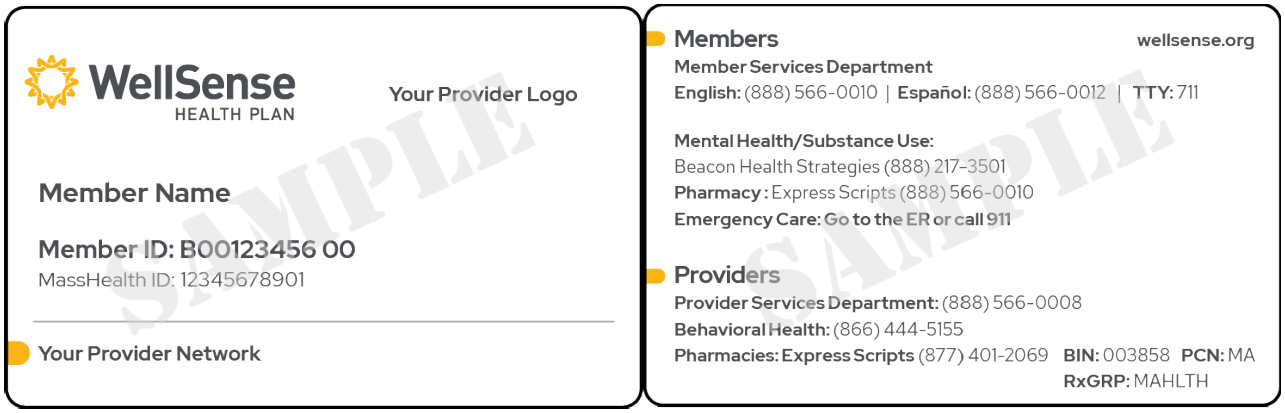
We will send you an ACO Plan Member ID Card. This card tells your Providers (including

doctors and pharmacies) that you are covered by one of our ACO Plans. While you are a Member of our ACO Plan, you must use your ACO Plan Member ID Card whenever you get Covered Services.

This includes covered drugs. However, even if you don't have your ACO Plan Member ID Card, a Provider should never refuse to give you care. If a Provider refuses to treat you, please call our Member Service Department at 888-566-0010 (English/Other Language), 888-566-0012 (Spanish) or TDD/TTY: 711, Monday - Friday from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. We will speak with your Provider and confirm your health plan information.

- The front of your Member ID Card will tell you the name of your ACO Plan. Knowing the name of your ACO Plan is important. It will help you to find the right information about your ACO Plan.
- The front of your Member ID Card will also tell you the name of your ACO Plan's Provider Network. Use that name when you go to our website to look up your ACO Plan's Provider Listing. This way you can be sure that you are looking up Providers in your ACO Plan.
- The back of your Member ID Card has important phone numbers for contacting us, getting Behavioral Health care, and what to do if you need Emergency care.

Here is a sample ACO Plan Member ID Card. It shows you what yours will look like:



Lost your ID card?

If your ACO Plan Member ID Card is damaged, lost, or stolen, call our Member Service Department right away. We will send you a new one. Or, you may order a new one from our website at wellsense.org.

If your MassHealth ID Care is damaged, lost, or stolen, call MassHealth Customer Service Center at 800 841-2900, TDD/TTY 800-497-4648 Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. to order a new MassHealth ID Card.

Section 1.8 Keep us up-to-date with your personal and other insurance information

How to help make sure that we have correct information about you

Your membership record with us has information we received from MassHealth. This includes

your address and telephone number. Network Providers who care for you need to have correct information about you. They use your membership record to know what services and drugs are covered. Because of this, it is very important that you help us keep your information up to date.

Let our Member Service Department know about these changes:

- Changes to your name, address, or phone number
- Changes in any other health insurance coverage you have, such as:
- Any employer's group health insurance plan that covers you
- Any Workers' Compensation you are getting because of a job-related illness or injury
- Any veteran's benefits or other government health plans you may have
- "Continuation coverage" that you have through COBRA (COBRA is a law requiring employers to let employees and their dependents keep their group health coverage for a time after they leave the group health plan.)
- If you have any claims from a car accident
- If you are pregnant
- If you have been admitted to a nursing home
- If you receive care from an Out-of-Network Provider (such as a hospital) or Emergency room
- If your guardian or other responsible party (such as a caregiver) changes, or if you set up a Durable Power of Attorney. A "Durable Power of Attorney" is someone you choose to make health care decisions for you.

Let the MassHealth Customer Service Center know about these changes:

- If you are pregnant. (You may qualify for more benefits due to your pregnancy.)

- If you wish to change your health plan during a Plan Selection Period.
- If you wish to change your health plan during a Fixed Enrollment Period for any of the reasons listed under the "Fixed Enrollment Period" in Chapter 12. This includes when you wish to change your PCP to a PCP who is not part of your ACO Plan.
- Changes in your income or other financial support.
- If you move out of Massachusetts (Note: If you move out of Massachusetts, you will no longer be able to have MassHealth coverage.)

To contact the MassHealth Customer Service Center: call toll free at 800-841-2900 or 800-497-4648 (TDD/TTY), Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

How do we keep your Protected Health Information ("PHI") private?

Federal and state laws require that we keep your PHI private. We protect your PHI as required by these laws. (See Chapter 13.)

Section 1.9 Member Advisory Council

We want to hear from you. Your feedback is important to us. During the year, we have local

and/or regional Member Advisory Council meetings. These allow us to hear from our Members. If you are interested in joining us, let us know. Call our Member Service Department at 888- 566-0010 (English/Other Language), 888-566-0012 (Spanish) or TDD/TTY: 711, Monday - Friday from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Chapter 2: Important phone numbers and resources

Section 2.1 Member Service Department contact information

We are happy to help you. You may call our Member Service Department to get help with:

- Questions about your coverage
- Translating your Member materials
- Finding a Network Provider
- Filing a Complaint or Appeal
- To request an ACO Plan Member ID Card

- Getting paid back for Covered Services
- Any other questions

Method	Our Member Service Department—Contact Information
Call	888-566-0010 (English/other languages) 888-566-0012 (Spanish) Hours: Monday–Friday from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Calls to this number are free. Our Member Service Department has free interpreter services for non-English speakers.
TTY/TDD	For hearing impaired: 711 (TTY/TDD) 711 (Relay operator) This number requires special telephone equipment. It is only for people with hearing or speaking problems. Calls are free.
Fax	617-897-0884
Write	WellSense Health Plan Attn: Member Service Department 100 City Square, Suite 200 Charlestown, MA 02129 MemberQuestions@wellsense.org
Website	wellsense.org

Section 2.2 Contact Information for other services

Type of Question	Whom to Call	Contact Information

Behavioral Health	WellSense Member Service Department	Phone: • 888-217-3501 TTY/TDD: 866-727-9441 Hours: Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Behavioral Health Help Line: • 833-773-2445
Medical Services	Member Service Department	Phone: • 888-566-0010 (English or other languages) • 888-566-0012 (Spanish) For hearing impaired: 711 Hours: Monday–Friday 8 a.m.–6 p.m. Nurse Advice Line: • 800-973-6273
Pharmacy (general questions)	Express Scripts	Phone: For general pharmacy questions: • Call Express Scripts: 888-566-0010 For hearing impaired: 711 Hours: 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Type of Question	Whom to Call	Contact Information

Pharmacy (mail order questions)	Cornerstone Health Solutions	**To request a new mail order prescription** • Call Cornerstone Health Solution (Cornerstone) at 844-319-7588, 711 (TTY/TDD), available Monday through Friday 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. ET. • You may also complete the mail order pharmacy enrollment form and mail it in with your prescription(s) to us. You may also have your doctor submit your prescription electronically to us via fax. **To request a refill of your mail order prescription** • Call Cornerstone Health Solutions' mail order pharmacy at 781-805-8220, 711 (TTY/TDD), Monday through Friday 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. ET to request your refill. • Start an online refill request from Cornerstone Health Solutions' webpage • Start a mobile refill using Cornerstone Health Solutions' mobile app Cornerstone Health Solutions Mail Order Pharmacy: cornerstonehealthsolutions.org

Type of Question	Whom to Call	Contact Information

Care Management (CM) and Care Coordination	CM Department	Phone: • 866-853-5241 • 617-478-3762 Hours: Monday–Friday 8:30 a.m.–5 p.m.
Complaints (Grievances) and Appeals	Member Service Department or Appeals Department	Phone: • 888-566-0010 (English or other languages) • 888-566-0012 (Spanish) For hearing impaired: 711 Hours: Monday–Friday 8 a.m.–6 p.m. You may also call our Appeals Department: • 617-748-6338
Behavioral Health Complaints (Grievances) and Appeals	WellSense	Phone: • 888-217-3501 TDD/TTY: 866-727-9441 Hours: Monday–Thursday 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m., Friday 8:30 a.m.–5 p.m.
Health care information from a nurse	Nurse Advice Line	Phone: • 800-973-6273 For hearing impaired: 711 (TTY/TDD) 711 (Relay operator) Hours: 24 hours a day, 7 days a week

Type of Question	Whom to Call	Contact Information
Dental services* **This benefit is covered directly by MassHealth*	DentaQuest Customer Service	Phone: • 866-616-2699 For hearing impaired: • 711 Website: Masshealth-dental.org Hours: Monday–Friday 8 a.m.–6 p.m.
Report suspected fraud	WellSense Compliance Hotline	Phone: • 888-411-4959 Hours: 24 hours a day, 7 days a week Fax: • 866 750-0947 E-mail: FraudandAbuse@wellsense.org
MassHealth questions: • Enrolling or being eligible for coverage Benefits • Transportation help* • Vision benefit for eyeglasses* *This benefit is covered directly by MassHealth	MassHealth Customer Service Center	Phone: • 800-841-2900 For hearing impaired: • 800-497-4648 Hours: Monday–Friday: 8 a.m.–5 p.m.

Type of Question	Whom to Call	Contact Information
Ombudsman • Get help from My Ombudsman staff person • Arrange for interpreter services in your preferred language and for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing to receive Ombudsman services • Request My Ombudsman informational materials in large print, braille, electronic format (PDF or Word doc) or in other languages.	Ombudsman staff	Phone: • 855-781-9898 (toll free) *For TTY users, use MassRelay at 711 to call the number above E-mail: info@myombudsman.org Website: myombudsman.org Office: 25 Kingston Street 4th Floor Boston, MA 02111 *Office is wheelchair accessible. Walk-in hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays between 10 a.m. -3 p.m. Also by appointment.

Chapter 3: How to get care from Providers

Section 3.1 What is the ACO Plan Provider Network?

Your ACO Plan Provider Network has many different types of Providers that contract with us. Network Providers are listed in your ACO Plan's Provider Listing. You must get all your care from Network Providers except in certain situations stated in Section 3.9.

Section 3.2 Information in your ACO Plan Provider Listing

Your ACO Plan Provider Listing has a complete list of Network Providers in your ACO Plan. The list includes:

- Primary Care Providers (PCPs) and primary care sites
- Specialists
- Hospitals and other facilities
- Behavioral Health Providers
- Community Behavioral Health Center providers
- Providers such as physical therapists, laboratory providers, and radiology centers
- Hospital Emergency room and Urgent Care services
- Durable Medical Equipment suppliers

In your ACO Plan Provider Listing you can find information about Providers, such as:

- Address
- Telephone number
- Specialty (like internal medicine or pediatrics)
- Languages spoken
- Handicap access
- Hours they are open
- Board certification status
- Hospital affiliation (if it applies)

You can get more information about any doctors, such as any malpractice, medical school,

or training information. Contact the Massachusetts Board of Registration in Medicine. The number is 800-377-0550. Or go to mass.gov and click on "Check a Physician Profile."

How to find your ACO Plan Provider Listing

Your ACO Plan Provider Listing is on our website: wellsense.org. Click on the "Find a Provider" tab at the top of the home page. Then find the box that has the name of your ACO Plan's Network. The name of your ACO Plan's Network is on the front of your ACO Plan Member ID Card.

The online Provider Listing is always the most current version. Call our Member Service Department at 888-566-0010 (English/Other Language), 888-566-0012 (Spanish) or TDD/TTY: 711, Monday - Friday from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. if you need help finding a Network Provider in your area. You can also ask us to mail you a free printed Provider Listing of Network Providers in your area.

Why do you need to know which Providers are part of your ACO Plan Provider Network?

As a Member, you must use ACO Plan Network Providers to get all your Covered Services. There are some exceptions. See Section 3.9.

Section 3.3 Choosing a Primary Care Provider (PCP) to provide and oversee your care

Every Member must have a Primary Care Provider (PCP) who is in your ACO Plan Network. Your PCP will work with you to manage your health care needs. Always call your PCP first for health- related questions, except in an Emergency. Your PCP can tell you what to do.

There are different kinds of Providers who can be PCPs:

- Family practice doctors treat adults and children. They may also provide health services for pregnant individuals.
- Internal medicine doctors ("internists") treat adults over age 17 years. Pediatricians are doctors who treat children and young adults up to age 21 years.
- Nurse practitioners are registered nurses. They have extra training that allows them to offer primary care to children and adults.
- Physician assistants work on health care teams with doctors and other Providers to treat children and adults.
- Obstetricians/Gynecologists ("OB/GYNs") are doctors who treat

pregnant individuals and other health needs. Only certain OB/GYNs are PCPs. They must be listed in your Provider Listing as a PCP. Check your Provider Listing at wellsense.org to see if an OB/GYN is listed as a PCP.

Each family member enrolled with us must have a PCP. You can choose a family practice doctor to be the PCP for all enrolled family Members if you wish.

What does a PCP do for you?

Your PCP will do many things for you:

- Provide and coordinate all your care
- Treat you for your basic health needs and problems
- Direct you to Specialists and other Providers in your ACO Plan Provider Network
- Respond to your phone calls about your medical needs, even after business hours
- Write prescriptions
- Ask for Prior Authorizations (see Section 3.6) when needed

Call your PCP for an initial appointment

After you enroll in your ACO Plan, you may have a PCP assigned to you. If so, you should call your PCP to schedule a check-up or physical exam. Tell the office this is your first visit with the PCP using your ACO Plan coverage. If you have any problems making an appointment, call our Member Service Department at 888-566-0010 (English/Other Language), 888-566-0012 (Spanish) or TDD/TTY: 711, Monday - Friday from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. During your first visit with your PCP, you probably will get a physical exam. Your PCP will ask you questions about your health. The more your PCP knows about you and your family's health, the better he or she can manage your care. Adults should see their PCPs at least once a year for a check-up. Infants, children, and pregnant individuals should see their PCPs more often. See Chapter 5 about how often to see your Provider.

Call your PCP first when you're sick—unless you think it's an Emergency

Your PCP will provide and coordinate your care, except in an Emergency. You should call your PCP's office if you feel sick. Your PCP or a covering Provider is on-call to help 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

If you think you are having an Emergency, call 911 or go to the nearest hospital Emergency

room. In a Behavioral Health Emergency, call 911 or go to the nearest hospital Emergency room, or the nearest Community Behavioral Health Center (CBHC) in your area or nearest hospital Emergency room. A statewide list of CBHC's is in our Provider Listing, which you can see online at wellsense.org. This list is also in the "Statewide Community Behavioral Health Centers" section of your paper Provider Listing. If you want a paper copy, you may call our Member Service Department.

Need help getting to appointments?

Learn more about free transportation to scheduled health care appointments. See Section 5.2. Our Member Service Department can answer your questions. They can help make sure your needs are taken care of.

What to do if you have medical or behavioral health questions after hours

First you should call your PCP's or behavioral health provider's office and follow their instructions. Your provider's office has after-hour coverage that is available 24 hours a day,7 days a week. You can also call our Nurse Advice Line or the Behavioral Health Help Line for answers to questions. Both are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Call 800-973-6273 to reach our Nurse Advice Line or 833-773-2445 to reach the Behavioral Health Help Line. See Section 5.5.

If you are unable to see your PCP, you can go to a Network Urgent Care Center. These are also called "Walk-In Care" or "Convenience Care" providers. They are able to provide care for injuries or illness that requires immediate attention but are not serious enough to require an emergency department visit. If you need emergency behavioral health help, you can go to the nearest Community Behavioral Health Center or emergency room.

Section 3.4 How do you choose your PCP?

You will need to choose a PCP within 15 calendar days of joining your ACO Plan. In many cases you will be able to continue with the same PCP that you had before joining our ACO Plan. If you do not choose a PCP within that time, we will assign a PCP to you. Call our Member

Service Department if you need help choosing a PCP. We have a long list of PCPs. We will help you choose one for you and each enrolled family Member. Even though you can pick any PCP in your ACO Plan Network, you should pick one who is near you. Be sure to write down your PCP's phone number. Keep it where you can find it.

Section 3.5 Changing your PCP

Changing your PCP to another PCP in your ACO Plan

We want you to be happy with your PCP. It is important to have an ongoing relationship with your PCP. This helps your PCP get to know you and understand how to keep you healthy. But if you want to change your PCP, you can pick a new PCP within your ACO Plan Network at any time; just call our Member Service Department. You can find a new PCP in our online ACO Plan Provider Listing or ask us to mail you a free paper copy of the Provider Listing. Our Member Service Department can also help you find a new PCP. See Sections 3.2 and 3.3.

Once you choose a new PCP, you must let us know the PCP's name. You can do this in a few different ways: call our Member Service Department at 888-566-0010 (English/Other Language), 888-566-0012 (Spanish) or TDD/TTY: 711, Monday - Friday from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., complete a PCP Selection Form at your new PCP's office, or register with us at wellsense.org and change your PCP online.

Changing your PCP to another PCP who is not in your ACO Plan

You must call the MassHealth Customer Service Center to change your PCP to a PCP who is not in your ACO Plan. The toll-free number is 800-841-2900 or 800-497-4648 (TDD/TTY). Call Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. In most cases, you can change to a PCP outside of your ACO Plan only during certain times of the year:

During your Plan Selection Period: Every year, you will have a Plan Selection Period for 90 days. During that time, you can choose a new ACO Plan or another MassHealth plan. If you want to change to a PCP who is not in your ACO Plan, you can do that during your Plan Selection Period. But this will result in a change to your health plan. Your new health plan will be one of the following MassHealth health plans in which your new PCP participates:

- A different ACO Plan. (Either another ACO offered by WellSense or different organization.)
- A managed care organization (MCO) plan. (Either one offered by WellSense or a different MCO.)
- The Primary Care Clinician Plan (PCC). (This is offered directly by MassHealth.)
- During your Fixed Enrollment Period: The Fixed Enrollment Period is the 9 months during the year when you can change your ACO Plan only for certain reasons. During this time, you will need MassHealth approval if you want to change to a PCP who is not in your ACO Plan. The reasons

are in Chapter 12.

Members who can change their ACO Plan at any time: If you are in any of the following categories, you can change your PCP to a new PCP in any MassHealth plan any time:

- Children in the care or custody of the Department of Children and Families (DCF)
- Youth in the care or custody of the Department of Youth Services (DYS)
- Newborns and children younger than one year old

Section 3.6 How to get care from Specialists and other ACO Plan Network Providers

There may be times when you need to see a Specialist. A Specialist is a doctor who provides health care services for a specific disease or part of the body. There are many kinds of Specialists. Here are some examples.

- Oncologists care for patients with cancer.
- Cardiologists care for patients with heart conditions.
- Orthopedists care for patients with certain bone, joint, or muscle conditions.

If you think you need to see a Specialist or other type of Provider, call your PCP first. If your PCP agrees, he or she will direct you to one who works with your PCP within your ACO Plan Provider Network. Your PCP works closely with certain ACO Plan Network Providers, including Specialists. These close working relationships mean your PCP can better coordinate your care so that it's the right care. For example, your PCP can often communicate with these other Network Providers through shared medical record systems. Shared records can help you avoid having the same medical test more than once or being prescribed drugs that do not interact well.

Your PCP will also help if you need hospital services or follow-up care. That's why it's important that you talk with your PCP about your specialty care needs.

Sometimes Prior Authorization is needed from us for visits to ACO Plan Network Specialists

Prior Authorization is our approval in advance for you to see certain Specialists. If we approve, we will cover (pay for) the visit to the Specialist. The chart below tells you when Prior Authorization is and is not needed.

Prior Authorization from us is required in the following cases:	Prior Authorization to see a Specialist is never required in the following cases:
Your PCP or Specialist must get Prior Authorization from us before you see a Specialist who is an Out-of-Network Provider. See Section 3.9 for more information.	• In an Emergency • Urgent Care • To go to any ACO Plan Provider Network: obstetrician; gynecologist; certified nurse midwife, or family practitioner for Routine health care. This includes: gynecologic exams; Pap tests; pelvic exams; breast exams; and screening mammograms (x-rays of the breast). • To get Family Planning Services from any ACO Plan Network Provider or MassHealth- contracted Family Planning Services Provider.

Before you visit a Specialist, always check with your PCP. Ask your Provider if he or she has gotten Prior Authorization from us, if needed. You can find what hospitals your PCP and Specialists are connected with. Just look in the ACO Plan Provider Listing. It is on our website. You can also call our Member Service Department at 888-566-0010 (English/Other Language), 888-566-0012 (Spanish) or TDD/TTY: 711, Monday - Friday from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. for help.

Section 3.7 Getting a Second Opinion

Members may get a Second Opinion from a qualified Network Provider. You may also see an Out-of-Network Provider if you get a Prior Authorization from us. You may ask for a Second Opinion about any health care services or treatments your Provider thinks you should have. Either way we will pay for your Second Opinion visit. There is no cost to you.

Section 3.8 Getting care for your Behavioral Health needs

You can find a list of Behavioral Health Network Providers in our Provider Listing at wellsense.org or call our Member Service Department at 888-217-3501, TTY/TDD 866-727-9441, Monday – Friday from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

They can send you a free printed Provider Listing of Behavioral Health Network Providers in your area. You can also ask family members, a community agency, or another Provider to suggest a Behavioral Health Network Provider.

Behavioral Health services are available by "self-referral." This means you can go to a Behavioral Health Network Provider when you think you need one. You do not have to first ask your PCP or other Provider. You do not need a Prior Authorization for a Behavioral Health Network Provider. Certain other Behavioral Health services must be Authorized in advance.

The Covered Services List shows the Behavioral Health services that require Prior Authorization.

This list can be found in the back of this Handbook. Your Provider can arrange for Prior Authorization. You can call WellSense at 888-217-3501, TTY/TDD 866-727- 9441, Monday – Friday from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. if you have any questions about Prior Authorization for Behavioral Health Covered Services. In a Behavioral Health Emergency, call 911; go to the nearest hospital Emergency room; or the closest Community Behavioral Health Center (CBHC) in your area. A statewide list of CBHC's is in our Provider Listing at wellsense.org. See Section 3.12. If you have questions for your behavioral health provider after office hours, you can call the Behavioral Health Help Line at 833-773-2445.

Section 3.9 Getting care from Out-of-Network Providers

Providers who do not have contracts with us are called "Out-of-Network Providers." You are not covered for services provided by an Out-of-Network Provider—except in any of the following cases:

- Emergency.
- Post-stabilization Services. (These are services that follow your Emergency room visit.) See Section 3.12.
- Urgent Care.
- Second Opinions—if we gave a Prior Authorization.
- Your PCP or other Provider has received Prior Authorization from us. For Family Planning Services, you may choose any doctor, clinic, community health center, hospital, pharmacy, or family planning office as long as they contract with MassHealth. See Section 4.1.
- If you need care that is covered and is Medically Necessary and our Network Providers cannot provide this care or cannot provide it within

the timeframes in Section 3.11. In these cases, you may be able to get this care from an Out-of-Network Provider. We must approve this in advance through Prior Authorization.

- You have been Authorized to see an Out-of-Network Provider under our Continuity of Care policy described in Section 3.10.

You are not covered for medical care, including Emergency or Urgent Care, outside of the United States or its territories. You should still seek Emergency or Urgent Care when you are outside the country. But we and MassHealth will not cover it.

Section 3.10 Continuity of Care

This is the process to reduce disruptions in health care when a Member changes health plans, or when a Network Provider leaves the Network. There are cases described below when we may cover, for a short time, health services from a Provider with whom you have an existing relationship. This is true even if that Provider is not in your ACO Plan Provider Network (Out- of- Network Provider).

New Members

If you are a new Member, here are some cases where we may be able to pay for your care with a Provider you were seeing before you became our Member:

- Pregnancy: You may be able to keep seeing your current OB/GYN through
  - The delivery of your child, and
  - Follow-up care within the first weeks after delivery.
- Outpatient Services for up to 30 calendar days after your Effective Date of enrollment for:
  - Outpatient medical or Behavioral Health (including substance use disorder care) services from a Provider whom you have been seeing. This includes a PCP.
  - Durable Medical Equipment and supplies (including Prosthetics and Orthotics), or outpatient therapies if another MassHealth health plan authorized these for you in the past.

- Inpatient Services: If you are an Inpatient on your Effective Date in the ACO Plan, for up to 30 calendar days after your Effective Date of enrollment, or for as long as Medically Necessary.
- Prescriptions: If you have an existing prescription as of your Effective Date of enrollment, you may be able to get coverage for refills for certain prescribed drugs.
- Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA) Services: You may be covered for more visits to the Provider of ABA services. This could be for up to 90 calendar days after your Effective Date.
- Community Partner Programs: You may be covered up to 30 days after your Effective Date of enrollment.

Existing Members—if your Network Provider leaves your ACO Plan

Sometimes Network Providers may leave our Provider Network. This could happen for many reasons. For example, they move or retire. If your Network Provider leaves the Network for reasons not related to quality or Fraud, we will try hard to tell you in advance. That way you have time to pick a new one. We will also work with you to transfer your care to a new Network Provider. That new Provider can give you the Medically Necessary care you need.

If your Network Provider leaves the Network, we may be able to continue to cover some of your health care from this Provider. This might be done under our Continuity of Care policy. But only if any of the following cases apply to you:

- If the Provider is providing your pregnancy care and you are in your second or third trimester of pregnancy, you may be able to keep seeing your Provider through delivery and the first six weeks after delivery.
- If your Provider, including your PCP, is actively treating a chronic or acute medical condition, you may be able to keep seeing your Provider through the current period of active treatment or for up to 90 calendar days (whichever period is less) after we tell you they are no longer part of your ACO Plan Provider Network.

If you are receiving behavioral health services, and your provider leaves the ACO network, we will transition you to another provider minimizing any disruptions to treatment. While that transition is occurring, you may continue to see your current provider for Medically Necessary covered services.

How to ask us for Continuity of Care

If you are first joining the ACO Plan or are a current Member, you must call our Member Service Department and say that you want to get Continuity of Care. We will review your case. We may Authorize continued coverage with your Provider. We will allow you to get continued treatment by an Out-of-Network Provider only if they agree to our terms related to payment, quality, and other policies. You should make sure that the Provider has Prior Authorization from us before you see them. You may ask your PCP to arrange this. Or call our Member Service Department. You may also call us if you need help locating a new Network Provider.

Section 3.11 How long it should take to get care from Providers in your ACO Plan Provider Network

You don't want to have to wait too long for an appointment when you don't feel well or think you need to see a Provider. That's why we require all of our Network Providers to follow the appointment times below. You shouldn't need to wait any longer than what is listed. If you think any of these timeframes have not been met, you have the right to file an Internal Appeal. (See Chapter 11–Internal Appeals.)

Getting Medical Care

Type of Care	Description
Emergency Care	An Emergency room or other Provider of Emergency services must give you care immediately, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. There is no limit on getting qualified Emergency care. This is the case whether or not the Provider is in your ACO Plan Network.
Urgent Care	A Network Provider must give you Urgent Care within 48 hours of your request for an appointment.
Primary Care	Non-urgent, symptomatic care. (This means you are sick or have other symptoms that are not urgent.): A Network Provider must give you care within 10 calendar days of your request for an appointment.

	Routine, non-symptomatic care. (This means you are not sick and do not have any symptoms.): A Network Provider must give you care within 45 calendar days of your request for an appointment. Different times apply when a child's appointments are part of the EPSDT schedule. (EPSDT stands for Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment). Your child's Provider can give you more information about EPSDT schedules. (See Section 4.2 about EPSDT.)
	Routine, first prenatal and first Family Planning visit: Within 10 working days of your request for an appointment.
Specialty Care	Non-urgent, symptomatic care. (This means you are sick or have other symptoms that are not urgent.): A Network Provider must give you care within 30 calendar days of your request for an appointment.
	Routine, non-symptomatic care. (This means you are not sick and do not have symptoms.): A Network Provider must give you care within 60 calendar days of your request for an appointment.

Getting Behavioral Healthcare

Type of Care	Description
Emergency Behavioral Health Services	A hospital Emergency room, a Community Behavioral Health Center (CBHC) Provider, or other Provider of Emergency services must give you care immediately, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
Urgent Behavioral Health Services	A Network Provider must give you Urgent Care within 48 hours of your request for an appointment.
Other Behavioral Health Services	A Network Provider must give you care within 14 calendar days of your request for an appointment

Type of Care	Description
	For services described in an Inpatient or 24-hour diversionary services discharge plan, you must get care within these time frames: • For non-24-hour diversionary services: within two calendar days of discharge • For medication management: within 14 calendar days of discharge • For other outpatient services: within 7 calendar days of discharge • For Intensive Care Coordination services: within 24 hours of referral, including self-referral, offering a face-to-face interview with the family

Section 3.12 Emergency Services, Urgent Care and after-hours care

What is an "Emergency" and what should you do if you have one?

An Emergency is when you or any other reasonable person with an average knowledge of health and medicine believe that you have symptoms that require immediate medical attention. The medical or Behavioral Health symptoms may be an illness, injury, severe pain, or a medical or Behavioral Health condition that is quickly getting worse. Below are some examples of medical and Behavioral Health Emergencies. These are only the most common Emergencies. This list does not include all the health Emergencies someone may have.

Examples of medical emergencies	• Convulsions • Chest pain • Loss of consciousness • Heavy bleeding • Severe burns • Serious accidents • Poisoning • Throwing up continuously • Heart attack • Stroke • Heavy bleeding
Examples of behavioral health emergencies	• Hallucinations • Wanting to harm yourself • Wanting to harm others

If you have a medical or behavioral health emergency:

- **Get help as soon as possible.** Call 911 for help. Or go to the nearest Emergency room or hospital. You have a right to go to any hospital or other setting for Emergency Services. A statewide list of Emergency rooms is in our Provider Listing at wellsense.org. It is also in the "Statewide Emergency Care by Hospitals" section of your paper Provider Listing. You should seek immediate care when there is no time to call your Provider. Call for an ambulance if you need it. You do not need to get Prior Authorization or be directed by any Provider to seek Emergency care.
- **Coverage.** You are covered for Emergency care 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. This is the case even if you travel away from home and need to see an Out-of-Network Provider. (Note: there is no coverage outside the United States or its territories.) You cannot be denied Emergency care based on your diagnosis (your illness or condition).
- **In a Behavioral Health Emergency.** Call 911 or go to the nearest Community Behavioral Health Center (CBHC) in your area or nearest hospital Emergency room. A statewide list of CBHC's is in our Provider Listing at wellsense.org. This list is also in the "Statewide Community Behavioral Health Centers" section of your paper Provider Listing.
- **Call your PCP.** As soon as possible, but within 48 hours, you or someone else should call your PCP to tell him or her about your Emergency. This will help make sure you get the right follow-up care.

What is Covered if you have a medical or Behavioral Health Emergency?

We will cover Emergency services and Post-stabilization Care services from any Provider within the United States or its territories. We also cover Emergency-related ambulance services.

Note: We do not cover Emergency care (or Emergency ambulance services) outside of the United States or its territories. You should still seek Emergency care when you are outside the country, but the services you get will not be covered by MassHealth or us.

Care after the Emergency is treated

The Providers who treat your Emergency will decide when your condition is stable. This means that the Emergency is over and you are improved enough to be transferred or released from the hospital. This is called Post-stabilization Care. The treating Provider's decision is binding. This means we and anyone caring for you must follow the treating Provider's direction.

Post-stabilization Care services related to an Emergency are covered so that your condition remains stable. For example, if you are treated for a Behavioral Health Emergency at a Community Behavioral Health Center, you are also covered for the follow-up services you will need once your Emergency has been dealt with. This follow-up care might include outpatient visits or treatment at another facility.

We can work with your doctors to coordinate your Post-stabilization Care. If an Out-of-Network Provider gives you your Emergency care or Post-stabilization Care, we will arrange for Network Providers to take over your care as soon as your medical condition and the situation allow.

What if it wasn't a medical or Behavioral Health Emergency?

Sometimes it can be hard to know if you have an Emergency. For example, you might go in for Emergency care thinking that your health is in serious danger. But the doctor may say that it was not an Emergency. If it was not an Emergency, as long as you thought your health was in serious danger, we will cover it. But after the doctor has said that it was *not* an Emergency, we will cover additional care *only* if you get that care in one of these two ways:

- You go to an ACO Plan Network Provider to get the additional care; or
- The additional care you get is considered "Urgent Care." Then you follow the rules for getting Urgent Care (see below).

What if you need Urgent Care—during or after regular office hours?

Urgent Care is care for an illness, injury, or condition that is serious enough to seek care right away, but not so severe that it requires emergency room care.

- You should always try to call your PCP (or Behavioral Health Provider) when you think you need Urgent Care. This is the case even after regular office hours. You can call your PCP 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. If your PCP is not available, a covering Provider will call you back. Your PCP or Behavioral Health Provider can usually care for your Urgent Care needs. Your PCP and your Behavioral Health Provider must see you within 48 hours after you ask for an appointment for Urgent Care.

- If you think you can't wait to talk with your PCP, covering Provider or a Behavioral Health Provider, or if your condition gets worse before one of these Providers sees you, go to a Network Urgent Care center. Or go to the closest hospital Emergency room.
- You may also call our Nurse Advice Line 800-973-6273 at any time or the Behavioral Health Help Line at 833-773-2445. See Section 5.5.

What if you are traveling away from home and need Urgent Care?

If you need Urgent Care while you travel from home for a short period of time, try to call your PCP and follow your PCP's advice. If you cannot wait, go to the nearest Urgent Care center, Quick Care clinic or hospital Emergency room. You or a family member should call your PCP (or your Behavioral Health Provider, if that applies) within 48 hours after getting Urgent Care. Your PCP will want to follow up with you about any more care you may need.

We will cover Medically Necessary Urgent Care services that you get when you travel from home, EXCEPT we will *not* cover:

- ANY Urgent Care services provided outside the United States or its territories.

You should still seek Urgent Care when you are outside the U.S. But neither we, nor MassHealth cover these services.

- Tests or treatment your Provider told you to get before you left the area.
- Routine Care or follow-up care that can wait until you come home. Examples are physical exams, flu shots, stitch removal, or counseling.
- Care that you knew you were going to need before you left the area, like elective surgery. (This means surgery you choose to get.)

To make sure you are covered, take care of your Routine health needs before traveling.

What you should do if you are billed for Emergency or Urgent Care

An Out-of-Network Provider may ask you to pay for Emergency or Urgent Care at the time you get the service. If you pay for this type of service that you got within the United States or its territories, you may ask us to pay you back. See Chapter 8 about how to ask us to pay you back. You may also call our Member Service Department at 888-566-0010 (English/Other Language), 888-566-0012 (Spanish) or TDD/TTY: 711, Monday - Friday from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. for help with bills that you may get from a Provider.

Chapter 4: Using your ACO Plan to help manage your health

This Chapter gives you important information about pregnancy and Family Planning Services. It also includes information about preventive care and other services that help you manage your care and stay healthy.

Section 4.1 Pregnancy and Family Planning

Pregnancy (prenatal) care

The health care you get while you are pregnant (before your baby is born) is called "prenatal care." This type of care is very important. Your Provider will check with you often during your pregnancy. He or she will want to make sure your baby is growing like he or she should. This will include making sure you are eating the right foods and that there are no problems with your health. It also includes making sure that there are no problems with your growing baby. Even if you have had another baby, it is very important that you get prenatal care for *every* pregnancy.

Make an appointment with an obstetrician/gynecologist (OB/GYN)

You need to see an obstetrician (OB) as soon as you can after you become pregnant. An OB is a doctor who treats pregnant individuals and delivers babies. This type of doctor is usually also a gynecologist (GYN). That means that he or she is trained to know about diseases of the female reproductive system. This is the system in your body that allows you to have babies. The short name for this combined specialty is OB/GYN. If you think you are pregnant, you should:

- Tell your PCP that you are pregnant. Your PCP can give your OB/GYN important health information about you. This will help make sure that you and your growing baby stay healthy.
- Ask your PCP to give you the name of an OB/GYN doctor. Or call an OB/GYN doctor listed in your ACO Plan Provider Listing. You do not need a Prior Authorization for these visits. This means you do not need to get approval before seeing an OB/GYN.
- You can see your OB/GYN as often as he or she wants to see

you. We pay for all these visits, including childbirth in a hospital or a freestanding birthing center.

Family Planning Services and supplies in Network or Out-of-Network

We cover Family Planning Services. These include medical services, counseling, birth control advice, pregnancy tests, sterilization services, and follow-up care. (Sterilization services are permanent medical procedures that stop you from becoming pregnant in the future.) You can get Family Planning Services from your PCP. You can also get these services from any ACO Plan Network Provider or MassHealth-contracted Family Planning Services Provider. No Prior Authorization from us is required. Ask your PCP for names of Family Planning Services Providers. You can also call a Family Planning Services Provider directly (self-refer).

Section 4.2 Preventive Care—Staying Healthy

Staying healthy

The best health care happens before you get sick. It is called preventive care. We cover preventive care services that are rated A or B, as recommended by the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force. For children, we also cover preventive services recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics Bright Futures Program. To help you stay healthy, we have a Guide to Wellness. This guide gives you the list of tests and shots you and your children should have. If you would like a copy of the guide, go to our website at wellsense.org. You can then select "Living Healthy" and "Wellness Center."

Preventive care for adults

Routine preventive care is important to stay healthy. We like all Members to visit their PCPs for preventive care. Examples of preventive care that we cover for Members ages 21 and older include:

- Physical exams every one to three years.
  - Ages 18–21: once a year
  - Ages 22–49: every 1-3 years
  - Ages 50 and over: once a year
- Cholesterol screening beginning at age 18 or as recommended by your health care provider.
- Cholesterol screening every five years beginning at age 18 or as recommended by your Provider.

- Pelvic exams and Pap smears every three years starting at age 21 for individuals at average risk.
- Breast cancer screening (mammogram) every two years for ages 40-74; earlier or more frequently based on risk factors. These exams should start earlier if an immediate family member has a history of breast cancer.
- Colorectal cancer screening every 10 years starting at age 50. This screening could be earlier if an immediate family member has a history of colorectal cancer. In that case, screenings could be more often.
- Flu shot every year.
- Eye exams once every 24 months. These could be more often if certain medical conditions exist.

Preventive and well-childcare for all children

Children who are under age 21 should go to their PCP for checkups even when they are not sick.

At the checkup, your child's PCP will screen to see if there are any health problems. These screenings include:

- Health
- Vision
- Dental
- Hearing
- Behavioral Health (BH) - mental health and substance use disorder
- Growth progress
- Immunizations

At the checkups, the PCP can find small problems and treat them before they become big ones.

We pay your child's PCP for these checkups.

Behavioral Health (BH) screenings can help you and your doctor or nurse see if you need help with emotional or social problems early. MassHealth requires that PCPs and nurses use specific tools to check a child's BH during well-child visits. These are short checklists

that the parent or child (if they are old enough) fills out and talks about with the doctor or nurse. The checklist might be called the Pediatric Symptom Checklist or the Parents' Evaluation of Developmental Status. Or it can be another screening tool your PCP chooses.

Your Provider will talk about the checklists with you. They will help you and your Provider know if your child needs help with emotional or social needs. If they do, they would go to see a BH Provider. For more information on how to get BH Covered Services, or to find a BH Provider, talk to your PCP or call WellSense at 888-217-3501, TTY/TDD 866-727-9441, Monday – Friday from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Below is the list of ages when your child needs a well-child check-ups and screenings:

- at 1 to 2 weeks
- at 1 month
- at 15 months
- at 4 months
- at 6 months
- at 9 months
- at 12 months
- at 15 months
- at 18 months
- at ages 2-20, children should visit their PCP according to the schedule advised by the American Academy of Pediatrics according to Bright Futures. Preventive Health care schedule found at https://downloads.aap.org/AAP/PDF/periodicity_schedule.pdf

Children should also visit their PCP any time you are worried about their medical, emotional, or BH needs, even when it isn't the time for a regular checkup.

Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment (EPSDT) services for children enrolled in MassHealth Standard or CommonHealth

EPSDT services are preventive care and treatment services PCPs provide on a specific schedule.

The schedule is based on a child's age. The services include a complete assessment (screening), coordinating your services, helping in a crisis, and in-home services.

If you or your child are under age 21 and enrolled in MassHealth Standard or CommonHealth, we will pay for all Medically Necessary services that are covered by federal Medicaid law. This includes services not specifically mentioned in your Covered Services List. We cover services that include doctor visits and diagnostic services. We also cover treatment that corrects or improves physical and BH conditions. If the service is not on the Covered Services List, the Provider who gives the service can ask us for Prior Authorization. Prior Authorization is the term we use for deciding if a service is Medically Necessary. We will pay for the service if Prior Authorization is given. If Prior Authorization

is denied, you or your Authorized Representative has a right to Appeal. (See Chapter 11 about the Appeal process.) Talk to your child's PCP, BH Provider, or other Specialist for help getting EPSDT services.

Preventive Pediatric Health care Screening and Diagnosis (PPHSD) services for children enrolled in MassHealth Family Assistance Plan

If you or your child are under 21 years old and enrolled in MassHealth Family Assistance Plan, we will pay for all Medically Necessary services your PCP provides with a well-child checkup. The PCP will check for any health problems. The screenings include health, vision, dental, hearing, and BH. They also include screenings to see if your child is growing as they should and has had all necessary shots. At well-child checkups, PCPs can find and treat small problems before they become big ones. Children should see their PCP any time there is a concern about their medical or Behavioral Health, even if it is not time for a regular checkup. Children under age 21 are also allowed regular visits with a dentist.

Children's Behavioral Health Initiative (CBHI)

CBHI is a MassHealth program. Families and children with serious Behavioral Health needs get services they need. These services will help make sure they do well at home, school, and in the community. To decide which services your child needs, your child's BH Provider uses a standard tool to learn about your child's needs. MassHealth requires this tool. The tool is called the Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS). This tool helps the BH Provider collect information. This information helps them decide what type of BH needs your child has. Your BH Provider also uses this tool to check if the treatment is helping your child. The provider will also use this tool to manage care if your child is in an Inpatient psychiatric hospital or community- based acute treatment setting.

We offer additional BH services to your child and family because of the CBHI. These include services such as Intensive Home or Community-Based Services for Youth. Check your ACO Plan Provider Listing for a list of BH Providers in your area. For more information, call WellSense at 888-217-3501, TTY/TDD 866-727-9441, Monday – Friday from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Dental care for children

MassHealth (not WellSense) pays for preventive and basic dental services. These services keep your children's teeth and mouth healthy and prevent diseases. Your child's PCP will check your child's teeth at well-child checkups. When your child is three years old, their PCP will tell you to take your child to the dentist at least twice a year. They may ask you to go earlier if there are problems. When your child goes for routine dental exams, the dentist will do a full dental exam. The dentist will also clean your child's teeth and give them a fluoride

treatment. It is important that your child gets the following dental care:

- A dental checkup every six months starting no later than age three.
- If your child's PCP or dentist finds problems with your child's teeth or oral health or gums, your child may need other dental treatments before age three.

Your child's dental health may be better when fluoride is put on their teeth. This can be done by a dentist or other Provider. It is best to have the fluoride put on when the child is very young. That means as soon as the front teeth begin to show. This usually happens at six months old. Fluoride is allowed for Members up to age 21 years old if they can't get to a dentist and the service is Medically Necessary.

Children younger than 21 years old can get all Medically Necessary services covered under Medicaid law. This includes dental treatments, such as:

- Preventive and basic services to prevent and control dental diseases. It also includes upkeep of teeth and gums. (These services are covered by MassHealth.)
- Oral surgery in an outpatient setting, such as Outpatient Hospital or same day surgical centers, and Emergency dental services. (These services are covered by us.)

Talk to your child's PCP or dentist if you need help getting these services. Please note:

- Children do not need Prior Authorization to see a MassHealth dentist.
- Children can visit a dentist before age three.

Early Intervention (EI) services for children with growth or developmental delays

Some children need extra help to grow and develop healthy. Network Providers who are EI Specialists can help them. EI Specialist work with children under three years old and their families. Some are social workers and nurses. And some are physical, occupational, and speech therapists.

They make sure your child gets extra support that is needed. Some of the services will take place in your home. Some will take place at EI centers. If you have concerns about your child's growth or development, talk to your child's PCP right away. You can also contact your local EI Division directly by referring to the online directory. Please go to mass.gov to find the right contact or for general information, email EI@mass.gov.

Children in the care or custody of the Department of Children and

Families (DCF): If you have children in the care or custody of DCF, a Network Provider must:

- Give your child a health care screening within 7 calendar days after you or the DCF worker asks for it.
- Give your child a full medical exam within 30 calendar days after you or the DCF worker asks for it. Sometimes it is sooner if the Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment (EPSDT) require it sooner.

Chapter 5: Covered Services (your benefits)

Section 5.1 Understanding your Covered Services (what is covered and what is not covered)

This Chapter explains what you need to know about using your ACO Plan to get your health care covered. Covered health care services and drugs are called "Covered Services." We cover and manage most Covered Services. However, some services are covered and managed directly by MassHealth (see Section 5.2). In either case, we coordinate all these services as of the date that you become a Member of the ACO plan. This date is your "Effective Date."

Covered Services List

For information on all your Covered Services, see the Covered Services List in the back of this Handbook. Your benefits are shown for your specific ACO Plan benefit plan. The types of benefit plans are:

- Standard
- CommonHealth
- Family Assistance Plan
- CarePlus
- The Covered Services List has:
  - The list of Covered Services.
  - An explanation about whether the services are covered by us or by MassHealth.
  - Benefit Limits.
  - Services that require Prior Authorization from us. These services are marked with a "Yes" in the Prior Authorization Required column of the Covered Services List.
  - The services that are covered directly by MassHealth. The Covered Services List will tell you if your Provider will have to get a referral directly from MassHealth.
  - The Covered Services List is general information only. It

does not list every service that is covered. MassHealth decides what your benefits are. Your benefits may change over time. See our website for the most current information. Always check your Covered Services List to see what services are covered or not.

Excluded Services List

The Excluded and Limited Services List is also found in the back of this Handbook, following the Covered Services List. The Excluded and Limited Services List is a list of services that either have limits or are not covered by us or by MassHealth. **Please note that neither we nor MassHealth cover any services, including Emergency or Urgent care that you receive outside the United States and its territories.**

Section 5.2 Services covered directly by MassHealth

MassHealth directly covers some services even though we may help coordinate them. For more information on the services covered directly by them, please call:

- MassHealth Customer Service Center—800-841-2900 (TTY/TDD 800-497- 4648), Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Transportation assistance

Some ACO Plan Members may qualify for non-Emergency transportation to go to visits for Covered Services. MassHealth, not us, covers this benefit. However, we can help you to set up

this transportation. You should contact us well before your appointment so we can handle your request. In order to qualify for this benefit, you must make sure that:

- You do not have a family member or other person who can take you to your appointment.
- You do not have access to public transportation (buses or trains), or if you do, that there is a medical reason you cannot use it.
- Your appointment is for a Medically Necessary Covered Service.
- You will see a Network Provider or other MassHealth-contracted Provider.

Note: Non-Emergency transportation must be within 50 miles of the Massachusetts state

border. For more information, please call our Member Service Department at 888-566-0010 (English/Other Language), 888-566-0012 (Spanish) or TDD/TTY: 711, Monday - Friday from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Section 5.3 Free "Extras" for our qualified Members

In addition to the Covered Services you get, qualified Members also get the following free extras:

- Infant/toddler safety car seats. If you're having a baby, call our Member Service Department. Ask to find out how to get your free car seat. You can get the car seat as early as 45 days before your due date.
- Bicycle helmets for kids. Kids who are Members of our ACO Plan can get a free bike helmet. Call our Member Service Department to find out how to get the helmet.
- Free dental kits every year for Members aged four years and up.
- Payment towards:
  - A qualified gym membership fee.
  - Weight Watchers® Programs.
  - We will pay up to the amount stated on our website at wellsense.org.

For more information on whether you qualify for these extras, call our Member Service Department at 888-566-0010 (English/Other Language), 888-566-0012 (Spanish) or TDD/TTY: 711, Monday - Friday from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Section 5.4 Where to find the Covered Services List and Excluded and Limited Services List

See the Covered Services List. See the Excluded and Limited Services List. Both are found at the back of this booklet.

Section 5.5 Nurse Advice Line and Behavioral Health Help Line for all our Members

You can get free health care information from a trained registered nurse or behavioral health provider. You can get this 24 hours a day, 7 days a week from our Nurse Advice Line for medical questions or the Behavioral Health Help Line for mental health or substance use questions. Our Nurse Advice Line number is 800-973-6273. The number for the

Behavioral Health Help Line is 833-773-2445. Remember: these Lines can help you. But the Lines should not take the place of your Primary Care Provider (PCP) or Behavioral Health provider.

Section 5.6 Rules for getting your health care covered by us

We will cover your health care if the following rules are met:

- You are enrolled in the ACO Plan at the time of the service.
- The care you get is listed in the Covered Services List. (See the back of this Handbook.)
- The care you get is Medically Necessary. "Medically Necessary" services are services, supplies, or drugs that are needed to prevent, diagnose, or treat your medical condition. These services must meet accepted standards of medical practice. There must not be another similar medical service or place of service that is right for you or that is more appropriate or less costly.
- The care you get is from an ACO Plan Network Provider. In most cases, care you get must be from a Network Provider. The only time this is not true is when you get care from an Out- of-Network Provider as stated in Section 3.9.
- Your Provider has received approval in advance from us. This is called Prior Authorization. In certain situations, we must give your Provider approval before you can get a certain service or see certain Providers. (See Sections 3.6 and 5.7.)

If you have questions about Covered Services, or any of the rules for getting your care covered by us, call Member Service at 888-566-0010 (English/Other Language), 888-566-0012 (Spanish) or TDD/TTY: 711, Monday - Friday from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Section 5.7 Prior Authorization—getting approval from us for certain services

What is Prior Authorization?

For certain Covered Services, your Provider will need approval from us before we agree to cover the service for you. This approval is called "Prior Authorization." The rule for getting approval in advance helps us make sure that you get the right care. If your provider does not get this approval, we might not cover your service. The Covered Service List states

whether Prior Authorization is required from us or from MassHealth.

When we make a decision to cover or not cover a service, we consider whether the service is Medically Necessary. We decide if a service is Medically Necessary based on clinical criteria. Clinical criteria are based on information from proven clinical research. Health care professionals who have the right clinical knowledge make our Prior Authorization decisions. You can request a copy of our clinical criteria; call our Member Service Department at 888-566-0010 (English/Other Language), 888-566-0012 (Spanish) or TDD/TTY: 711, Monday - Friday from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. or go to our website at wellsense.org.

In general, Prior Authorization is required in the following cases:

- When the Covered Services List has a "yes" in the Prior Authorization Required column.
- When you are trying to get coverage for services with an Out-of-Network Provider. The only exception is for those services listed in Section 3.9 that do not require Prior Authorization. An example of this type of service is Family Planning.

We will send a letter to you, your Authorized Representative (if you have one), and the requesting Provider of any decision to deny a request for coverage. We will also send you a letter if we approve less than what was asked for. You have the right to file an Internal Appeal if you disagree with our decision—see Chapter 11.

Please Note: Prior Authorization is never needed for Emergency services.

Timeframes for Prior Authorization decisions

- Prior Authorization decisions are made within the following timeframes:
    - Standard Authorization decisions: Within 7 calendar days after we receive the request.
    - Expedited (fast) Authorization decisions: Within 72 hours after we receive the request. Only a Provider or we can decide when an Authorization request may be expedited (processed fast). This decision is based on whether following the 7-day timeframe could seriously harm the Member's life or health, or ability to get, maintain, or regain maximum function.

We can take 14 more calendar days to decide if you or your Provider requests it. The process of asking for more time is called an "extension." You can get more time if:

- We have good reason to believe the extension is in your best interest;
- We need additional information that we think, if we receive it, will lead to approval of your request; and
- We think there is a good chance that more information could be received if we waited for 14 calendar days.

If we decide that an extension of the timeframes is a good idea, we will send a letter to you (and your Authorized Representative, if you have one). If you aren't happy with this decision, you may file a Complaint in writing, over the phone or in person. A Complaint is also called a "Grievance." Our Member Service Department staff can help you with this. Also, we will send a letter to you if we did not meet these timeframes. You have the right to file an Internal Appeal.

Chapter 6: Getting your prescription drugs

Section 6.1 ACO Plan Drug List

MassHealth Drug List is a listing of all the drugs covered by MassHealth and WellSense. The drug list can help determine:

- Which prescription or over-the-counter drugs are covered by us
- Which non-drug pharmacy products (such as diabetic test strips) are covered by us
- Whether the drug is part of any of our Pharmacy Programs. Pharmacy Programs put special rules on coverage of certain drugs

To search for a drug, select a letter to see drugs listed by that letter or, enter the name of the drug you wish to search for. Any drug(s) that do not appear on the MassHealth Drug List require prior authorization.

The Drug List includes both brand name and generic drugs

A brand name drug is a drug made and sold by the drug company that originally developed the drug. A generic drug is a drug that is made and sold by other drug companies. A generic drug has the same active ingredients as the brand name drug. Generally, the generic drug works just as well as the brand name drug and usually costs less. There are generic drug substitutes available for many brand name drugs. There may be exceptions, where a Brand name medication is required before the generic can be approved. For more information see MassHealth Brand Name Preferred Over Generic Drug List at https://mhdl.pharmacy.services.conduent.com/MHDL/.

Over-the-Counter (OTC) Drugs

We cover certain over-the-counter drugs as listed in the MassHealth Over-the-Counter Drug List.

Some OTC drugs are less expensive than prescription drugs and work just as well. To be eligible for coverage, OTC drugs require a prescription from your Network Provider. To search the list of drugs covered by MassHealth, visit wellsense.org/masshealth-prescriptions.

Non-Drug Pharmacy Products

We cover certain non-drug pharmacy products as listed in MassHealth's ACO/MCO

Unified Pharmacy Product List. To find out whether the non-drug item you are looking for is covered, visit https://mhdl.pharmacy.services.conduent.com/MHDL/.

Drugs that we do not cover

There are certain drugs we do not cover. If you get drugs not covered by us, you must pay for them yourself. Here are some general rules about drugs that we do not cover:

- We do not cover drugs that MassHealth does not cover.
- We do not cover drugs purchased outside the United States and its territories
- We usually do not cover off-label use of drugs. "Off-label use" is any use of the drug other than those uses listed on a drug's label as approved by the Food and Drug Administration. Generally, coverage for "off-label use" is allowed only when certain reference books (such as the American Hospital Formulary Service Drug Information book) support the use. If the use is not supported by these reference books, then we do not cover it.
- Certain drugs are not covered through our pharmacy benefit but are covered under your ACO Plan's medical benefits. These drugs are usually given to you directly by your Provider rather than from a pharmacy.

If a drug is not covered, it will not be found on the MassHealth Drug List. Drugs not listed on the MassHealth Drug List will require prior authorization. You may also contact our Member Service Department at 888-566-0010 (English/Other Language), 888-566-0012 (Spanish) or TDD/TTY: 711, Monday - Friday from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. for more information.

Section 6.2 Where to find our Drug List

The most up-to-date MassHealth Drug List can be found at https://mhdl.pharmacy.services.conduent.com/MHDL/. If you would like a copy of the Drug List, call our Member Service Department at 888-566-0010 (English/Other Language), 888- 566-0012 (Spanish) or TDD/TTY: 711, Monday - Friday from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Section 6.3 Changes to the Drug List

The Drug List can change during the year

MassHealth makes changes to the Drug List every one to two months if necessary. The

online Drug List is updated as changes are made. For example:

- Drugs, including non-drug pharmacy products, might be added or removed from the Drug List for many reasons. New drugs may become available, including new generic drugs. We might replace a brand name drug with a new generic drug. Sometimes the government has given approval for a new use for an existing drug. Sometimes the government recalls a drug and we decide not to cover it. Or a drug might be removed from the Drug List because it has been found to be ineffective.
- Drugs may be added or removed from one or more of our Pharmacy Programs. (See Section 6.5 for more information about our Pharmacy Programs.)

How will you find out if your drug's coverage has been changed?

If there is a change to coverage for a drug you take and that change could have a negative effect on you, we will send you a notice. In most cases we will let you know at least 30 days ahead of time. Sometimes a drug is suddenly recalled because it has been found to be unsafe or for other reasons. If this happens, we will immediately remove the drug from the list of covered drugs in the Drug List and let you know of this change right away. Your Provider will also be notified and can work with you to find another drug for your condition.

If a new generic drug replaces a brand name drug you take, the pharmacy will automatically substitute the generic drug when you get your next refill. In most cases we will cover the new generic drug and require Prior Authorization for the brand-name version. You can work with your Provider to switch to the generic or to a different drug that we cover. Or you and your Provider can ask us to make an exception and continue to cover the brand name drug for you.

Section 6.4 Getting your prescriptions covered

Basic prescription drug coverage rules

We will cover your drugs as long as you follow these basic rules:

- You must have a Network Provider (a doctor or other qualified prescriber) write your prescription (except for Emergency or Urgent Care).
- You must use a Network pharmacy. Most drugs are available from Network retail pharmacies. Certain prescriptions can be filled through our Network

mail-order pharmacy.

- Specialty drugs must come from our Network specialty pharmacy. A list of specialty drugs is available on the WellSense website by visiting https://www.wellsense.org/members/ma/masshealth/prescriptions.
- Your drug must be listed on the Drug List as a covered drug. (See Section 6.1.)
- Certain drugs are subject to special rules through our Pharmacy Programs before we will cover them.
- Your drug must be used for a medically accepted indication. This means the use of the drug is either approved by the Food and Drug Administration or supported by certain reference books.

Get a Prescription from your Network Provider

Your ACO Plan Network Provider needs to write a prescription for both prescription medications and over-the-counter (OTC) medications if you need them. The only exceptions are for Family Planning, Emergency or Urgent Care. (See Section 3.12.)

Fill your prescriptions at a Network pharmacy

In most cases, your prescriptions are covered only if they are filled at the ACO Plan's Network pharmacies. A Network pharmacy is a pharmacy that has a contract with us to provide your covered prescription drugs. You may go to any Network retail pharmacy. We contract with more than 1,000 retail pharmacies across Massachusetts—including major chain stores.

To find a Network pharmacy near you, go to our online Pharmacy Listing ("Find a Pharmacy") at wellsense.org. This lets you search for a Network pharmacy in your area. If you need help finding a Network pharmacy, call our Member Service Department.

To fill your prescription, show your ACO Plan Member ID Card at the Network pharmacy you choose. When you show this ID Card, the Network pharmacy will automatically bill us for our share of the cost of your covered prescription drug. If you do not have your ACO Plan Member ID Card with you when you fill your prescription, ask the pharmacy to call us to get the necessary information.

What if the Network pharmacy you have been using leaves the Network?

If the pharmacy you have been using leaves the ACO Plan's Network, you will have to find a new Network pharmacy. You can get help from our Member Service Department or use our Pharmacy Listing ("Find a Pharmacy") on our website at wellsense.org.

When you may use an Out-of-Network pharmacy

If you travel outside the area and need to fill a prescription due to an Emergency or Urgent Care need, you may have to go to an Out-of-Network pharmacy. In such case, you will need to pay for the drug and then contact us to have us pay you back. See Chapter 8 for more information about how to ask us to pay you back.

Using our Network mail order pharmacy service

You can get certain kinds of drugs from our Network mail-order pharmacy: Cornerstone Health Solution (Cornerstone). These drugs are called "maintenance drugs." Generally, maintenance drugs are drugs that are refilled regularly for conditions like diabetes and high blood pressure. Mail order allows Members to have a 90-day supply of maintenance drugs sent to their homes instead of having to get the prescription at a local retail Network pharmacy. To find out if your drug is available through mail order, go to our Drug List on wellsense.org. The drugs available through mail order are marked as "mail-order" drugs in our Drug List.

How to sign up with the mail-order pharmacy:

To request a new mail order prescription

- Call Cornerstone Health Solution (Cornerstone) at 844-319-7588, 711 (TTY/TDD), available Monday through Friday 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. ET.

You may also complete the mail order pharmacy enrollment form and mail it in with your prescription(s) to us. You may also have your doctor submit your prescription electronically to us via fax.

To request a refill of your mail order prescription

- Call Cornerstone Health Solutions mail order pharmacy at 781-805-8220, 711 (TTY/TDD), Monday through Friday 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. to request your refill.
- Start an online refill request from Cornerstone Health Solutions' webpage.
- Start a mobile refill using Cornerstone Health Solutions' mobile app.
- Complete the mail-order enrollment form that is available on the website at cornerstonehealthsolutions.org.

Once you are signed up, you can refill prescriptions by mail, phone, or online at cornerstonehealthsolutions.org. Your prescribing Provider may call Cornerstone Health Solution (Cornerstone) at 844-319-7588, 711 (TTY/TDD), or fax your prescription to them

at 781-805-8221. Please make sure to let the mail-order pharmacy know the best ways to contact you so they can confirm your order before shipping. Usually, a mail-order pharmacy order will get to you within 5-7 business days after your prescription order has been confirmed with you. If the mail order prescription is delayed, you should contact us to obtain a temporary supply of medication from a network pharmacy until the mail order can be delivered. If you have never used our mail order delivery to fill prescriptions, the pharmacy will contact you for setup. The pharmacy will also contact you when it gets a new prescription from a health care provider to see if you want the medication filled and shipped immediately. This will give you an opportunity to make sure that the pharmacy is delivering the correct drug (including strength, amount, and form) and, if necessary, allow you to cancel or delay the order before you are billed, and it is shipped. It is important that you respond each time you are contacted by the pharmacy, to let them know what to do with the new prescription and to prevent any delays in shipping.

It is important that you tell the pharmacy the best ways to contact you when you enroll in mail order services, including specifying your communication preferences and confirming your shipping address. If you have questions or problems with your mail order prescriptions, please contact Cornerstone Health Solutions by phone at 844 319-7588, 711 (TTY/TDD).

Using our Network specialty pharmacy

Certain prescription drugs must be filled through our Network specialty pharmacy. These drugs include certain medications that are often used to treat chronic (ongoing) conditions that require special drug support services. Specialty pharmacies can provide extra help to Members and Providers. A list of specialty drugs is available on the WellSense website by visiting https://www.wellsense.org/members/ma/masshealth/prescriptions. You can use this list to see if your drug is a specialty drug and to determine which Network specialty pharmacies can fill your prescription.

Section 6.5 Our Pharmacy Programs—special rules for coverage of certain drugs

We have several Pharmacy Programs that apply special rules to certain prescription drugs before we will cover those drugs. These drugs must meet our clinical criteria in order to be covered.

The purpose of these Pharmacy Programs is to make sure you get medications that are safe and effective, meaning that the drugs work to help your medical condition. Our Pharmacy Programs are also designed to encourage you and your Provider to use lower-cost drug options whenever a safe, lower-cost drug will work just as well medically as a higher-cost drug. This helps control overall drug costs, which keeps your drug coverage

more affordable.

How to find out if a drug is part of a Pharmacy Program

To find out if a drug is part of any of our Pharmacy Programs, check the MassHealth Drug List at https://mhdl.pharmacy.services.conduent.com/MHDL/. Or, call our Member Service Department at 888-566-0010 (English/Other Language), 888-566-0012 (Spanish) or TDD/TTY: 711, Monday - Friday from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Description of our Pharmacy Programs

A brief description of each of our Pharmacy Programs can be found online at WellSense: Pharmacy Programs | MassHealth | WellSense Health Plan. This section describes the following:

- Getting approval in advance from us ("Prior Authorization")
- Restricting brand name drugs when a generic version is available ("Mandatory Generic Substitution Program"). Some exceptions may apply where a Brand Name medication is preferred.
- Trying a different drug first ("Step Therapy Program")
- Quantity Limits on prescription drugs ("Quantity Limits Program")
- Drugs that are "New to Market"
- Other Pharmacy Programs

Getting approval in advance from us (Prior Authorization Program)

Your Provider needs to get approval in advance from us before we will cover certain drugs. This is called "Prior Authorization." When we receive a Prior Authorization request, a clinician will review it. If the medication is Medically Necessary, we will cover the medication. If we do not approve the request for Prior Authorization, we will not cover the drug. You can file an Appeal– see Chapter 11 for information about how to Appeal.

Restricting brand name drugs when a generic version is available (Mandatory Generic Substitution Program)

Generally, a generic drug works the same as a brand name drug and usually costs less. In most cases, when a generic version of a brand name drug is available, our Network pharmacies will provide you the generic version. We usually will not cover the brand name drug when a generic is available. If your Provider thinks the brand name drug is Medically Necessary, he or she may submit a request for Prior Authorization. A clinician will review the request. If the brand name drug is Medically Necessary, we will cover it. If we do not

approve the request for Prior Authorization, the brand name drug will not be covered by us. You can file an Appeal—see Chapter 11 for information. There may be exceptions, where a Brand name medication is required before the generic can be approved. For more information see MassHealth Brand Name Preferred Over Generic Drug List at https://mhdl.pharmacy.services.conduent.com/MHDL/.

Trying a different drug first (Step Therapy Program)

This requirement encourages you to try less costly but just as effective drugs before we will cover another drug. For example, if Drug A and Drug B treat the same medical condition, we may require you to try Drug A first. If Drug A does not work for you, we will then cover Drug B. This requirement to try a different drug first is called "step therapy." If your Provider thinks it is Medically Necessary for you to use Drug B without first trying Drug A, he or she can request Prior Authorization. A clinician will review the request. If Drug B is Medically Necessary for you, we will cover it. If we do not approve the request for Prior Authorization, we will not cover Drug B. You can file an Appeal—see Chapter 11 for information.

Quantity Limits on a prescription drug (Quantity Limits Program)

For certain drugs, we limit the amount of drug you can get each time you fill your prescription. For example, if it is normally considered safe to take only one pill per day, we may limit coverage to no more than one pill per day. This Program ensures the safe and appropriate use of certain drugs. If your Provider thinks it is Medically Necessary for you to have more than the allowed amount of the drug, he or she can request Prior Authorization. A clinician will review the request. If it is Medically Necessary for you to have more than the allowed amount, we will cover it. If we do not approve the request for Prior Authorization, we will not cover the larger amount of the drug. You can file an Appeal—see Chapter 11 for information about how to Appeal.

New-to-Market medications

We review new drugs for safety and efficacy before we add them to our Drug List. (Efficacy means that the drug works.) If your Provider thinks that a new-to-market drug that is not on our Drug List is Medically Necessary for you, he or she can submit a Prior Authorization request to us. A clinician will review that request. If approved, we will cover the drug. If we do not approve the request for Prior Authorization, we will not cover the new-to-market drug.

You can file an Appeal—see Chapter 11 for information about how to Appeal.

Other Pharmacy Programs

We have other Pharmacy Programs with special rules on drug coverage. These rules include:

- When you fill your prescription, you are limited to up to a 30-day supply of the drug each time you refill it.
- Mail-order eligible drugs allow for 90-day supplies or drugs included in the 90- day supply program that requires a mandatory 90-day supply or an optional (allowable) 90-day supply. Mail–order drugs are dispensed by our network mail order pharmacy. Drugs in the 90-day supply program can be dispensed by mail order or an in-network retail pharmacy.
- You have to use up about 75% (70% for ophthalmic medications) of your medication supply before you can refill the prescription.

What you can do if you or your Provider wants a drug that is not covered by us or a drug that is limited by the special rules of one of our Pharmacy Programs?

Start by talking with your Provider. Perhaps there is a different drug covered by us that might work just as well for you. You can call our Member Service Department to ask for the Drug List to see which covered drugs treat the same medical condition. This List can help your Provider find a covered drug that might work for you, and he or she can prescribe that drug for you.

If your doctor thinks it is Medically Necessary for you to take a medication that we do not cover, or is limited by the special rules of one of our Pharmacy Programs, he or she can submit a Prior Authorization request to us. A clinician will review this request. If the drug is Medically Necessary, we will cover the medication. If your Provider asked us for Prior Authorization but we denied the request, you can Appeal the decision. (See Chapter 11 for information.)

In certain cases, we will approve an emergency supply of a drug if you cannot wait for a Prior Authorization from us because waiting would be a risk to your health. Please talk with your pharmacy about obtaining an emergency supply of drug or have the pharmacy contact our Member Service Department at 888-566-0010 (English/Other Language), 888-566-0012 (Spanish) or TDD/TTY: 711, Monday - Friday from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. to receive Authorization for this temporary supply.

Section 6.6 Programs to help Members use drugs safely

Drug Utilization Review Program

We conduct drug use reviews to help make sure Members are getting safe and appropriate

care. These reviews are especially important for Members who have more than one Provider who prescribes their drugs. We do a review each time you fill a prescription. We also review our records on a regular basis. During these reviews, we look for potential problems such as:

- Medication errors
- Drugs that may not be necessary because you are taking another drug to treat the same medical condition
- Drugs that may not be safe or appropriate because of your age or gender
- Certain combinations of drugs that could harm you if taken at the same time
- Prescriptions written for drugs with ingredients you are allergic to
- Possible errors in the amount (dosage) of a drug you are taking

If we see a possible problem in your use of medications, we will work with your Provider to correct the problem.

Controlled Substance Management Program (CSMP)

This program uses claims data to identify Members who are at risk for using medications that could be abused. These drugs include Schedule II-V controlled substances (such as Oxycodone and Morphine) and other medications that are considered high risk due to overuse or inappropriate use. The goal of the CSMP is to help Providers to be more aware of their patients' medication use, and to reduce the possibility of medication misuse. Based on reviewing a Member's medical history and medication use, we may take actions such as:

- Pharmacy Lock-In: This process requires a Member to fill all prescriptions for controlled medications (such as hydrocodone or tramadol) at a single pharmacy location for one year. This helps the Member's Providers and pharmacist to better understand the Member's medications and reduce risks. Any Member who is placed in a pharmacy lock-in will be notified in writing in advance.
- Provider Lock-In: This process requires a Member to have all prescriptions for controlled medications written by a single Provider (or provider group) for one year. This helps the Provider to better understand the Member's medications and reduce risks.
- Communicating with the Provider who prescribed the medication.
- Educating the Member on the best practices for safe medication use.
- Referring the case for further evaluation of potential Fraud, Waste, and

Abuse.

Chapter 7: Care Management

Section 7.1 Care Management Programs

We want our Members to get and stay healthy. Our Care Management (CM) Programs can help by giving you the information and support you need. Members who may benefit from our CM Programs include those with:

- Medical needs
- Behavioral Health needs
- Health-related social needs
- Long-term services and supports (LTSS) needs
- High risk for being admitted to the hospital
- Special health care needs

The CM Programs involve the following:

- Members will have a Care Manager who leads the care team assigned to manage and coordinate the Member's care. The care team includes the Member's PCP and other specialists to help Members understand and manage their health.
- Members will have an assessment completed and a care plan created to help meet their health care goals. Members have a right to approve their care plan when there is a change.
- The care team will also help Members by finding benefits and help in the community. This includes finding services to help Members with:
    - Free rides to scheduled health care appointments
    - Getting food stamps and housing
    - Helping pay for utilities
    - Finding support groups

These resource services are available to all Members. You don't have to be in in the CM Programs.

The plan has several CM programs including:

- Health care Education
- Population Management
- Complex Care Management
- Transition of Care
- Social Care Management
- Behavioral Health

Our CM team works together for Members with both medical and BH needs.

Section 7.2 Medical Care Management (CM) Program

Our Medical CM Program includes the following programs so we can get the right level of care for you:

Health care Education and Wellness

This program offers educational tools and resources to support wellness and prevention. The goal is to help you learn new and easy ways to manage illnesses and to stay healthy. Topics may include:

- Childhood and adult immunizations
- Nutritional tips
- Home and safety reminders
- Condition-specific education through mailings, text messaging, and online materials

You can find these resources on our website wellsense.org. Just select the Care Management tab on the Member page. Our online Wellness Center also has information on how to stay healthy.

Population Management

Our Care Managers take a "hands on" approach. We work with you and a team of health care Providers to take care of medical, behavioral, and social needs for specific conditions such as diabetes or asthma. This program includes an assessment of your condition or other conditions you may be at risk for. This program also helps to coordinate your care and determine any benefits and resources that may help you. These resources may include family and community resources. An Individualized Care Plan (ICP) is then developed and carried out for each member. The ICP will focus on:

- Your psychological and social supports
- Self-treatment goals
- Care coordination, including Enhanced care coordination for certain conditions
- Personal and home safety
- Treatment plan

By following this care plan, you will learn more about your condition and health while building skills to lead a healthy lifestyle.

Medical Complex Care Management

This program is intensive short-term CM for members who have high-risk health conditions, multiple conditions, and/or special health care needs. This program includes all of the elements of population management and frequent check-ins from a Care Manager. These care management check-ins can be at home, in provider offices, or in the community, as needed. A care team includes your PCP, nurse care manager, community health worker, pharmacist, behavioral health, and other health care Providers. This team will help with your medical and social needs and determine how they can work with your family support and community resources/partners to take care of your health care needs. They can teach you about managing your condition, arrange for your care, and coordinate services, resources, and equipment. The team works with you to set your health goals and helps you meet them.

Transition of Care: This program is for members who have been discharged from a hospital or the emergency room. The Care Transitions Program provides available services and resources to make sure that discharge plans are put into place and that discharge instructions are understood. The Plan's non-clinical staff can also provide assistance with arranging transportation to and from your medical appointments. We may also help set up appointments with your primary care physicians (PCPs) and specialists, if necessary.

Social Care Management: This program involves a Social Care Manager assessment of your and your family's social needs and determines whether you could benefit from services. They will serve as your advocate (supporter). Follow-up actions occur at both the individual and family levels and may include connecting you with community supports to address obstacles to you staying healthy.

Contact us. Our CM Programs are free and voluntary. This means you choose whether to be in the Programs. We can place you in the right level of CM based on your needs. You may be referred into our Programs by:

- Our review of claims or clinical information.
- Your answers to the Care Needs Screening that you complete when you enroll with us. This form includes your health information and a summary of your current needs.
- A referral from our Nurse Advice Line.
- A referral from a hospital or Provider.
- Asking us to join the Program.

If you think these CM programs could help you, please call us at 866-853-5241. You do not need a referral and may self-refer yourself to us to enroll in the Program. You can also call that number if you want to leave our CM Program. Please note: Your choice to be in the CM Program does not replace the care and services you get from your PCP and other health care Providers.

Section 7.3 Behavioral Health (BH) Care Management Program

The BH Care Management Program is for Members with certain BH conditions. Licensed BH clinicians are trained to help you with your BH needs. We can help you find a BH Provider near you and explain available treatment options. Some of the conditions that this Program is designed for include:

- Depression
- Anxiety
- Emotional distress significantly affecting your relationships, school, work, job performance, sleep, or eating patterns
- Bipolar disorder, mood disorders, psychotic disorders, or schizophrenia
- Substance use or misuse such as alcohol, pain medications, or illegal drugs

Care Coordination

BH Care Management offers coordination of services for members with BH needs that could benefit from BH services. The BH Care Manager evaluates the Member's needs and, taking into consideration the member's input and preferences, coordinates the appropriate BH services.

Care Coordination services are available to children, adolescents, and adults.

Complex Behavioral Health care management

The Care Management Program also offers Complex BH Care Management for Members

dealing with more persistent or severe behavioral or psychosocial conditions. BH Care Managers will speak up in support of your health needs. They will work with you and your Providers, and help make sure you have what you need to get better. This includes:

- Evaluating your health
- Planning your care
- Helping you plan for services you will need when you leave the hospital
- Getting any other resources for you

BH Complex Care Management is a voluntary service for adults. This means you choose whether to be in the program. It is a short-term program to meet specific needs and get you to the best health possible. Licensed BH clinicians provide services by phone. These meetings include you and your Providers. With your permission, we will work with your PCP and other Providers, and family members to better help you. BH Complex Care Management care plans are personally developed with you and your Behavioral Health Providers with clear goals and the resources you need.

Contact us. For more information about BH Care Management program:

- Call WellSense at 888-217-3501, TTY/TDD 866-727-9441, Monday – Friday from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- Or visit our website: wellsense.org

Community Support Program for People Experiencing Chronic Homelessness (CSPECH)

CSPECH is a program for homeless Members. It provides many services that can be delivered in your community. These services can be provided to both the Member and their families to help Members who have a long history of Behavioral Health (BH) needs and who are at risk. Services also are given to Members who are children or teenagers who are having BH issues that affect their ability to get along in the community.

Section 7.4 Working with Community Partners to coordinate your care

Community Partners are organizations that work with certain Members to help coordinate care and provide CM. There are two types of Community Partners. One type specializes in Behavioral Health. The other type specializes in Long-Term Services and Supports (LTSS). Behavioral Health Community Partners work with certain Members who have very high needs for Behavioral Health services. LTSS Community Partners work with Members who need help meeting their needs for basic activities of daily life and caring for themselves. These Community Partners may be able to help:

- Assess Members' needs.
- Plan the right treatments and services for Members.
- Change a Member's care from one type of care to another. An example is Inpatient care to outpatient care.
- Manage and check medication.
- Provide health and wellness information.
- Find community and social services programs that can support Members.

If you want more information about Community Partners, or if you think you may qualify to get services from a Community Partner once they are available, you can do the following:

- For Behavioral Health Community Partners, call WellSense at 888-217-3501, TTY/TDD 866-727-9441, Monday – Friday from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- For LTSS Community Partners, call our Member Service Department at 888-566-0010. You do not need a referral in order to qualify for these services.

Chapter 8: Asking us to pay

We do not allow Network Providers to bill you for Covered Services. You should never get a bill from a Network Provider for Covered Services as long as you follow your ACO Plan's rules (See Section 5.6-Rules for getting your health care covered by us.) This is true even if we pay a Provider less than the Provider charges for a service or if we have a disagreement with a Provider about what we should pay the Provider.

However, there are times when you may be responsible for payment. For example:

- For care that is not an ACO Plan Covered Service or a MassHealth covered service
- **In cases when you signed a waiver.** Sometimes your doctor may ask you to sign a "waiver." Typically, a waiver says that you agree to pay for a service that your health plan does not cover. By signing a health insurance waiver, you are agreeing that you will pay for the services if we do not pay for them. For questions about waivers, call our Member Service Department at 888-566-0010 (English/Other Language), 888-566-0012 (Spanish) or TDD/TTY: 711, Monday – Friday from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. We can help you figure this out.

What to do if you have already paid for something you think you shouldn't have

If you paid for any Covered Services with your own money, you can ask us to pay you back. (Paying you back is often called "reimbursing" you.) Save your receipt and send a copy to us when you ask us to pay you back for our share of the cost. It is your right to be paid back whenever you paid more than your share of the cost of Covered Services (including drugs).

What if you get a bill from a Provider but have not paid it?

If you get a bill from a Provider for some or all of the cost of care you have received, we recommend that you first follow up with your Provider to make sure that they have your correct insurance information. If your Provider tells you that they have the correct information for you, please call us. We will help you determine whether the services should have been paid by us or if you are responsible for payment because the service you received is not a Covered Service.

Examples of when you may ask us to pay you back or pay a bill

Here are examples of when you may need to ask us to pay you back or pay a bill you

received:

- If you paid for, or got a bill for, Emergency or Urgent Care from an Out-of- Network Provider.
- If you pay the full cost for a prescription because you do not have your ACO Plan Member ID Card with you, the pharmacy cannot confirm your enrollment in your ACO Plan, and you need your medication right away.

How and where to send us your request for reimbursement

If you get a bill, or paid for a Covered Service, please send us your bill and proof of any payment you have made, such as a receipt. Print the name of the Member who received the care, and their ACO Plan Member ID Card number on the bill. Always make a copy of the bill and receipts for your records.

Type of Bill	Whom to Contact
Medical Services	Mail any bills for medical services to Member Service at: WellSense Health Plan Attn: Concierge Specialist 100 City Square, Suite 200 Charlestown, MA 02129
Behavioral Health Services	Mail any bills for Behavioral Health services to: WellSense Health Plan Attn: Member Service Department, Concierge Specialist 100 City Square, Suite 200 Charlestown, MA

Prescription Medications	First, download the Member Self Pay Reimbursement Form that is on our website (wellsense.org). If you do not have a computer, call us at 888-566-0010 (English or other languages), 888-566-0012 (Spanish), and for hearing impaired: 711 and we will mail you the form. Once you have completed the Reimbursement Form, mail the Form and your original paid pharmacy receipt(s) to: Express Scripts Attn: Commercial Claims P.O. Box 14711 Lexington, KY 40512-4711 You may also call Express Scripts at 888-566-0010. (English or other languages), 888-566-0012 (Spanish) and for hearing impaired: 711, 24 hours a day, seven days a week for questions about your submitted claims.

Please contact our Member Service Department if you have any questions.

What happens once you have submitted your reimbursement request?

Once we receive your request for payment, we will let you know if we need any more information. We will review your request and determine whether the bill should be paid by us. If we decide that the service or drug is a Covered Service and you followed all the rules for getting the service or drug, we will pay you back. If you have already paid for the service or drug, we will mail our share of the cost to you. If you have not paid yet, we will send you a letter letting you know our decision and, if payment is approved, will mail the payment to the Provider.

If we decide that the service or drug is *not* covered, or you did *not* follow all the rules for coverage, we will not pay for the service or drug. Instead, we will send you a letter letting you know our decision, the reasons for our decision, and your right to appeal.

If you think we have made a mistake in turning down your request for payment or you do not agree with the amount we are paying, you can file an Appeal. If you file an Appeal, it means you are asking us to change the decision we made when we turned down your request for payment. See Chapter 11 for information about how to request an Appeal. You may also call our Member Service Department to get more information.

Chapter 9: How other insurance works with your ACO Plan

Section 9.1 Which plan pays first when you have other insurance (Coordination of Benefits)

Some Members may have other health care coverage. If so, we work with your other insurance to coordinate your ACO Plan benefits. The way we work with the other insurance depends on your situation. This process is called "Coordination of Benefits."

As a Medicaid Plan, we are the payer of last resort. This means when you have other insurance (like health insurance from an employer), they always pay first. Your other insurance is called "primary insurance." We will always pay second. We are called "secondary insurance." This is the case unless the law states something different. If we don't cover certain services, you may be able to get them covered by your other insurance. If you have questions about other health insurance, call our Member Service Department.

You must follow all of your primary insurance rules when getting services. We may cover services or items not covered by your primary insurance. Also, we may cover your Copayments. It is important to use Providers that are in both your primary insurance network and our Provider Network for claims to be paid correctly.

If you have other health insurance, you should tell your Providers when you receive services. Your Providers will know how to file claims to your other insurance and to us. If you have questions, call our Member Service Department. You should also call us if you need to update your other insurance information.

Section 9.2 Motor vehicle accidents and/ or work-related injury/illness

Motor Vehicle Accidents

If you are in an auto accident, you must use all of your auto insurance company's medical coverage first. This includes:

- Personal injury protection; and/or
- Medical payment coverage

Then, we may pay for health care expenses related to your accident. You must send us any proof of payment or denial of payment letters from your auto insurance company. These will help us decide if we will pay the Claim from your Provider.

Work-related injury/illness

If you have a work-related injury or illness, the workers' compensation company will be the first party that must pay your related health expenses. You must send us any proof of payment or denial of payment letters from this company. These will help us decide if we will pay the Claim from your Provider.

Section 9.3 Right to Recover money from a person who is responsible for your injury (Subrogation)

If another person injures you, we will go through a process called "Subrogation." This means that we may use your legal rights to recover money from:

- The person(s) who caused your injury; or
- An insurance company or other responsible party

If another person or party is or may be responsible to pay for services related to your injury, we will use your legal rights to recover the full amount of money we paid or will pay for the health care services for your injury. To carry out these rights, we may take legal action, with or without your consent, against any responsible party to pay back the money we paid. Our subrogation rights apply even if the injured Member is under 18 years old.

If you receive bills for health care services related to the injury, you must send them to us before any settlement. If you do not send these to us, we may deny paying the Claim.

If another party pays you directly for any medical expenses that we paid for, we have the right to get back from you the full amount we paid.

Section 9.4 Member Cooperation

As a Member, you agree to cooperate with our Coordination of Benefits and Subrogation processes. This means you must:

- Immediately tell us if there is a potential for any possible Coordination of Benefits or Subrogation.
- Give us all information and documents we request.
- Complete and sign all documents we think are necessary to protect our

rights.

- Give us notice before you settle any claim that relates to an injury for which someone else is responsible.
- Promptly assign or give us any money you have received from another responsible party for services we paid for.
- Not do anything that might interfere with or prevent us from carrying out our processes.

Note: Our Prior Authorization of any services does not mean that we are required to pay for those health care services.

Nothing in this Member Handbook can be interpreted to limit our right to use any legal remedy to enforce our rights described in this Chapter.

Chapter 10: Your Rights and Responsibilities

Section 10.1 Your rights

Our Members have the following rights:

- You have the right to get information from us about your ACO Plan, our Covered Services, Network Providers, and your rights and responsibilities.
- You have the right to get the Medically Necessary services in your Covered Services List.
- You have the right to get a notice about any major changes to our Provider Network. These include when a PCP, Specialist, hospital, or facility leaves our Network and you are affected.
- You have the right to be respected and have your dignity and right to privacy recognized.
- You have the right to be free from all restraint (being placed under control) or seclusion (being isolated) used to force you, punish you, or get back at you or for anyone else's convenience.
- You have the right to get a copy of your medical records. You have the right to ask that they be changed or corrected as allowed by law.
- You have the right to have an honest discussion about health care treatment options in a way that you understand. This is the case no matter the cost or benefit coverage.
- You have the right to take part in decisions regarding your health care. This includes refusing treatment.
- You have the right to exercise your rights without it affecting you in a bad way or in how we and our Network Providers treat you.
- You have the right to ask for a Second Opinion for suggested treatment and have us pay for the Second Opinion visit.
- You have the right to file a Complaint when you're not happy with us, your Providers, or the quality of care or

services you get. (See Chapter 11.)

- You have the right to an Internal Appeal or External Board of Hearings Appeal to ask us to change our mind about an Adverse Action (denial) decision that we made (See Chapter 11.)
- You have a right to leave (Disenroll from) the ACO Plan in some cases. To find out more, see Chapter 12.
- You have the right to request written summary of our physician incentive plans.
- You have the right to be told whether we have moral or religious reasons that would keep us from covering counseling or a referral service. You may also get information about how you can get this service.
- You have the right to make suggestions about these Rights and Responsibilities.

Section 10.2 Your responsibilities

Below are some important things you need to do:

- Get to know your Covered Services and the rules you must follow to get Covered Services.
- Help your Providers care for you.
- Clearly tell them about your health complaints, health history, and other health information.
- Ask them questions. Your Providers will explain things in a way you can understand. If you ask a question and do not understand the answer, ask again.
- Learn as much as you can to about your health conditions and any recommended treatment. Consider the treatment before it is given.
- Follow the treatment plans and instructions that you and your doctors agree to. Remember that refusing recommended treatment might harm you.
- Allow your PCP to get copies of all your health records. This will help your PCP better care for you.
- Make sure your Providers know all of the drugs you take. This

includes over- the-counter drugs, vitamins, and supplements.

- Work with your Provider to understand your health problems. Work out treatment plans and goals as much as possible.
- You must tell us if you have any health insurance coverage or drug coverage in addition to this ACO Plan. Please call our Member Service Department to let us know.
- Tell your Providers you are enrolled in the ACO Plan. Show your ACO Plan Member ID Card and your MassHealth Medicaid ID Card when you get Covered Services.
- Keep your appointments. Be on time. Call in advance if you're going to be late or must cancel.
- Be considerate. Our Members should respect the rights of other patients. We also expect you to act in a way that helps your Providers' offices run smoothly. Treat your Provider with respect.
- Pay what you owe. If you get medical services or drugs that are not covered by us or by other insurance you have, you must pay the full cost.
- Tell us right away if you move or change your phone number. Please call Member Service Department.

Section 10.3 Your responsibility to report Fraud

You play an important role in protecting the Medicaid program from health care Fraud, Waste, and Abuse (FWA). Please help us detect FWA if it happens. The definition of Fraud, Waste, and Abuse is in Chapter 16. FWA can involve any type of individual or Provider, such as doctors and pharmacists. It can also involve medical equipment companies. Some examples of health care Fraud are:

- Billing for health care services never provided
- Giving false or misleading health care information
- Loaning your Member ID Cards to others so they can get services or drugs they are not supposed to have access to
- Selling medical supplies you get under your ACO Plan

You must notify WellSense when you think that someone has purposely misused the ACO Plan or MassHealth benefits or services. You should report something you think is wrong or suspicious behavior related to health care benefits or services to us. Just let us know:

Method	Contact Information
Call	888-411-4959 (Anonymous Hotline), available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week
Fax	866-750-0947
E-mail	FraudandAbuse@wellsense.org
Write	WellSense Health Plan Attn: Special Investigations Unit 100 City Square, Suite 200 Charlestown, MA 02129

You do not need to let us know who you are when you contact us. But it is helpful for you to give us as much information as possible, such as:

- Name of person or Provider you think acted wrong
- Member's ACO Plan Member ID Card number
- Description of the suspected FWA
- Where the services (if any) were provided
- Date of service

Section 10.4 Mental health parity

Federal and state laws require that all Medicaid managed care plans provide coverage for Behavioral Health (BH) services. These are mental health and substance use disorder services. The rules require that we cover BH services in the same way we provide coverage for physical health services. This is called "parity." For example, coverage for BH services cannot be more restrictive (limited) than coverage generally available for medical conditions. Parity applies to the following:

- Copayments and Copayment cap amounts
- Limits on services. For example, limits on how many Inpatient days or outpatient visits are covered
- Use of Utilization Management/Care Management tools
- How we decide:
- Medical Necessity

- Prior Authorizations
- Drug List tiers (if applicable)

In general, "parity" means that we must do all of the following:

- Provide the same level of benefits for any mental health and substance use disorder as we would for other physical problems you may have.
- Have similar Prior Authorization requirements and treatment limits for BH benefits as we do or physical health benefits.
- Give you or your Provider the Medical Necessity criteria we used for Prior Authorization when you or your Provider asks.
- Not place lifetime or annual dollar limits on BH benefits.
- Within a reasonable time, give you the reason for denying Authorization for BH services.
- If we cover Out-of-Network medical and surgical benefits, we must cover Out- of-Network BH services under certain circumstances.

If you think we are not providing parity as explained above, you have the right to file a Complaint with us. For information about Complaints, see Chapter 11.

You may also file a Complaint with MassHealth. Just call the MassHealth Customer Service Center at 800-841-2900 (TTY: 800-497-4648) Monday–Friday 8 a.m.–5 p.m.

Section 10.5 Advance planning for your health care decisions

Sometimes people can't make health care decisions for themselves because they are very sick or injured. You have the right to say what you want to happen if you can't make health care decisions for yourself.

Advance Directives are legal documents that allow you to name someone in advance to make medical decisions for you, and to give directions about future medical care if you can't.

Advance Directives are also called a health care proxy, health care agent, durable power of attorney for health care, or a living will. Advance Directives let you communicate your wishes about future medical care to family, friends, and Providers.

In Massachusetts, if you are at least 18 years old and of sound mind, you can make decisions for yourself. You may also choose someone as your health care "agent" or health care "proxy." This is a person you appoint to make decisions about your medical care if you can't speak for yourself. This includes decisions about life support. This person would carry out the wishes you put in your Advance Directive. You can change this person at any time you wish.

You do not have to use an Advance Directive. But you can if you want to. It is your choice. Here is what to do:

- **Get the form.** You can get a form from your doctor, a lawyer, a legal services agency, or a social worker. You can also get a Health care Proxy Form from the State by going to mass.gov and entering "health care proxy form" in the search box.
- **Fill out the form and sign it.** The form is a legal document. You should consider having a lawyer help you fill it out.
- **Keep a copy for your records.** Give copies to people who need to know about it. You should give a copy of the form to your doctors. Your doctors will put the form in your medical record. This will let them have your written instructions about handling your care if you cannot tell them yourself. You may also want to give copies to family or close friends.
- **If you are going to be hospitalized and you have signed an Advance Directive, take a copy of it with you.** The hospital will ask if you have signed an Advance Directive form and if you have it with you. If you have not signed one, the hospital may have forms available.

They may ask if you want to sign one.

It is your choice whether you want to fill out an Advance Directive

This includes if you want to sign one if you are in the hospital. According to law, no one can deny you care or discriminate against you based on whether or not you signed an Advance Directive.

What if your instructions are not followed?

If you signed an Advance Directive and you think that a Provider did not follow the instructions in it, you may file a complaint with Massachusetts Department of Public Health,

Division of Health care Quality's Complaint Unit by calling 800-462-5540.

Chapter 11: What to do if there is a problem or you have an Inquiry, Appeal, or Complaint (Grievance)

We want you to contact us if you have any concerns with your care or services. Our Member Service Department will help you with your concerns. You also have the right to voice concerns to MassHealth at any time. Call the MassHealth Customer Services Center at 800- 841-2900, TDD/TTY 800-497-4648 Monday - Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Section 11.1 Inquiries

An Inquiry is any question that you may have about our Behavioral Health operations.

We will resolve your Inquiries right away or, at the latest, within one business day of the day we receive your Inquiry. We will let you know about the outcome on the day your Inquiry is resolved. To make an Inquiry, call our Member Service Department at 888-566-0010 (English/Other Language), 888-566-0012 (Spanish) or TDD/TTY: 711, Monday - Friday from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., or WellSense (for Behavioral Health questions) at 888-217- 3501, TTY/TDD 866-727-9441, Monday – Friday from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

An Inquiry is not for addressing your dissatisfaction with us. If you are dissatisfied, you have the right to file a Complaint (Grievance). See Section 11.15. For other types of problems, you need to use our Internal Appeals process. See Sections 11.3–11.12 for the Appeals process.

Each process has a set of rules and deadlines that must be followed by you and by us. These are explained in this Chapter.

Section 11.2 What is an Authorized Representative?

An Authorized Representative is someone you have given permission, in writing, to act on your behalf with respect to an Internal Appeal, an External Appeal, or a Complaint (Grievance). **An Authorized Representative can act on your behalf for all the actions we describe in this Chapter 11.**

If your Authorized Representative is your family member:

- You can have him or her represent you in your Appeal or Complaint (Grievance).
- The family member can have a standing permission from you.

- This permission will end if you send us a letter telling us you have cancelled it. If the Member is deceased, an Authorized Representative can also include the legal representative of their estate.

If you pick an Authorized Representative who is not a family member:

- You must send us new written permission each time you want them to represent you.
- We must receive this written permission before our deadline for resolving your Internal Appeal or Complaint ends. We can help you write the letter. Or we can mail you a permission form for you to complete. For a copy of the form, call our Member Service Department.

Section 11.3 What is an Appeal?

An Appeal is something you may file if you disagree with an Adverse Action taken by us.

Common Adverse Actions that can be the basis for an Appeal include:

- We denied or provided limited Authorization for a service requested by your Provider. This includes a decision that the requested service is not a Covered Service.
- We reduced, suspended, or stopped a Covered Service that we Authorized in the past.
- We did not provide Covered Services in a timely manner within the times stated in Section 5.7.
- We did not make a Prior Authorization decision within the times stated in Section 5.
- We did not act within the Internal Appeal times stated in this Chapter for reviewing and sending notice of a decision.

There are two levels of Appeal available:

- **First level** is a request you make **to us** to review an Adverse Action (denial) we have taken. It is called an "Internal Appeal."
- **Second level** is a request you make **to the Board of Hearings (BOH)** to review our Internal Appeal decision. It is called an "External Appeal" or a "Board of Hearings (BOH) Appeal."

Section 11.4 What is an Internal Appeal?

An Internal Appeal is one that you file with us if you disagree with an Adverse Action. There are two types of Internal Appeals:

- Standard Internal Appeal
- Expedited (fast) Internal Appeal

In most cases, you will receive a notice letting you know an Adverse Action has been taken. (However, you may file an Internal Appeal when an Adverse Action occurs, even if you did not

receive a notice from us . Our Adverse Action letter will tell you your Appeal rights. Health care professionals who have the right clinical expertise and were not involved in the original Adverse Action make Internal Appeal decisions.

You can file an Internal Appeal in writing, over the phone or in person. Here's how to file an Internal Appeal:

Appeal Type	Contact Information
For Medical or Pharmacy Appeals	**Mail or fax your written Appeal to:** WellSense Health Plan Attn: Member Appeals 100 City Square, Suite 200 Charlestown, MA 02129
For Behavioral Health Appeals	**Mail or fax your written Appeal to:** Appeals Coordinator WellSense Health Plan Attn: Member Service Department, Concierge Specialist 100 City Square, Suite 200 Charlestown, MA Fax: 781-994-7636

To Call and Request a Verbal Appeal	**For Medical and Pharmacy Appeals:** call our Member Service Department at 888-566-0010; or the Appeals Department at 617-748-6338, Monday–Friday 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. **For Behavioral Health Appeals:** call WellSense Member Service Department at 888-217-3501, Monday–Thursday 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Friday 8:30 a.m.–5 p.m.
To file an In-Person Appeal	Visit us at the address below: WellSense Health Plan 100 City Square, Suite 200 Charlestown, MA 02129

Sections 11.5 and 11.6 explain how you can file your Internal Appeal.

Section 11.5 How and when to file a Standard Internal Appeal

You must file your Standard Internal Appeal with us within 60 calendar days of the date of our written notice of Adverse Action (denial) to you. If you ask for an Appeal over the phone or in person, it must be followed by a written and signed Appeal request (unless the request is for an Expedited (fast) Internal Appeal—see Section 11.6.

You may name someone to file the Appeal for you. This includes naming your Provider or an Authorized Representative. To name someone, you must send us a letter stating whom you wish to name.

- The date that you call us to request a verbal appeal of an Adverse Action will be the date of the Appeal request. When we receive your Internal Appeal, a specialist will send you a letter stating that we have received your Appeal. Our staff will begin work on resolving your Appeal right away.
- You may lose your right to Appeal if you do not file your Internal Appeal within the 60- calendar day timeframe.
- You may request that services or benefits you currently receive

continue while you are waiting for the results of your Appeal. This is called "Continuing Services." To ask for this while you are waiting, you must file your Internal Appeal with us within 10 calendar days from the date you receive our notice of Adverse Action. Your Provider cannot request Continuing Services for you.

How quickly will you receive a decision on your Standard Internal Appeal?

We will resolve your Standard Internal Appeal within 30 calendar days from the day we receive it. This is the case unless the timeframe is extended. You, or we can extend the timeframe by up to 14 calendar days. We explain more about this in Section 11.7.

We will notify you in writing of our decision.

Section 11.6 How and when to file an Expedited (fast) Internal Appeal

An Expedited Internal Appeal is when you ask that your Appeal be resolved more quickly than the time for resolving a Standard Internal Appeal. You can do this if you or your Provider feels that waiting for a standard resolution would put your health at serious risk. You or your Provider may request an Expedited (fast) Internal Appeal. To file for this, follow the instructions for filing a Standard Internal Appeal in Section 11.5 above. When you contact us, tell us that you would like an Expedited Internal Appeal.

We will never penalize a Provider who requests or supports a Member's Expedited Internal Appeal. In most cases, we will agree to give you an Expedited Internal Appeal if your Provider requests it or supports it. However, we may not agree if the request is unrelated to your health condition. If your Provider is not involved in your request, then we have the right to decide if the Appeal will be processed as an Expedited Internal Appeal.

How quickly will you receive a decision on your Expedited (fast) Internal Appeal?

If we accept your request for an Expedited Internal Appeal, we will decide it as quickly as your health condition requires. But our decision will be no later than 72 hours after the date we receive your request, unless the timeframes are extended as stated in Section 11.7. We will notify you in writing of our decision. We will also try to contact you by phone to tell you about the decision. If you disagree with our decision, you can file an External Appeal with the Board of Hearings. (See Section 11.13.)

If your request does not qualify for an Expedited Internal Appeal, we will notify you in writing. We will then process your Internal Appeal as a Standard Internal Appeal within the standard 30 calendar day timeframe stated in Section 11.5. You have the right to file a Complaint

(Grievance) if you disagree with our decision not to process your Internal Appeal as an Expedited Internal Appeal. (See Section 11.15 about how to file a Complaint).

Section 11.7 Can Internal Appeal timeframes be extended?

You may ask to extend the timeframes for resolving Standard or Expedited Internal Appeals by up to 14 calendar days. We also may ask to extend the timeframes for resolving your Internal Appeal by 14 calendar days if we feel that it would benefit your Appeal. The reasons we may ask to extend the timeframes include:

- The additional time is in your best interest.
- We need more information that we believe will lead to approving your request.
- We think the information we are looking for will be sent to us within 14 calendar days.

When we choose to extend a timeframe, we will send you a notice. If you disagree with the decision, you may file a Complaint. (See Section 11.15 about filing a Complaint.)

Section 11.8 When can we dismiss your Internal Appeal?

We may dismiss (decide not to consider) your Internal Appeal if:

- Someone else files an Internal Appeal for you and we do not receive your written permission for that person to serve as your Authorized Representative before the timeframe for resolving your Appeal ends. Written permission is not required when your Provider serves as your Authorized Representative for an Expedited Internal Appeal; or
- You filed your Internal Appeal after the deadline in Section 11.5 and 11.6 (60 calendar days after the notice of Adverse Action); or, if you did not receive our notice of Adverse Action (because, for example, you moved), you filed your Internal Appeal more than 60 days after learning on your own about our Adverse Action.

We will notify you of an Internal Appeal dismissal.

Section 11.9 Can you dispute when we dismiss an Internal Appeal?

If you believe that you asked for your Internal Appeal within 60 calendar days and you have

proof of your request, you have the right to:

- Dispute our dismissal of your Appeal; and
- Request us to continue with your Appeal.

To do this, you must submit a letter to us within 10 calendar days of notice to dismiss. In the letter you can ask us to reconsider the dismissal. We will review your request. We will then notify you of our decision.

Section 11.10 Continuing Services during your Internal Appeal Process

If your Internal Appeal involves a decision by us to change a service that we Authorized in the past, including a decision to reduce, suspend, or end a service, we will continue to cover the requested services during the Internal Appeal process if you file your appeal within 10 calendar days from the date of our Adverse Action letter. These services are called "Continuing Services." If you want to receive Continuing Services, you must:

- Submit your (Standard or Expedited) Internal Appeal request within 10 calendar days from the date of our Adverse Action letter. This is the letter we sent you explaining that we decided to change a service that we Authorized in the past; and
- State in your request that you want to get Continuing Services.

Section 11.11 Your rights during the Internal Appeal Process

We will provide you a reasonable chance to present evidence in person and in writing. This includes facts and law about your case. We will also allow you to see your files before and during the Internal Appeal process. We can also help you with interpreter or translation services during the Internal Appeal process. There is no cost to you.

What do you do if you disagree with our decision on your Internal Appeal?

If you disagree with the decision, you may file an External Appeal with the Board of Hearings (BOH). See Section 11.13.

Section 11.12 What if we do not resolve your Internal Appeal within the required timeframes?

If we do not decide your Internal Appeal within the required timeframes, you can file an External Appeal with the BOH. See Section 11.13.

Section 11.13 How to file an External Appeal with the Board of Hearings

(BOH)

You cannot request an External Appeal with the Board of Hearings without first going through our Internal Appeal process as described above. If you are unhappy with the results of your Internal Appeal, you have the right to request an External Appeal with the BOH. The BOH is within the state's Office of Medicaid. If you want the BOH to give you an expedited (fast) hearing, you should file a Fair Hearing Request Form with the BOH within 20 calendar days of an Expedited Internal Appeal decision from us. Otherwise, you have 120 calendar days from our Internal Appeal decision to file for a standard hearing with the BOH.

Please note: if you file between 21 and 120 calendar days from the date of our Internal Appeal decision, the BOH will process your External Appeal within their standard timeframe.

The letter we send you telling you our Internal Appeal decision will include the form (and other information) you will need to file your request for an External Appeal with the BOH if you choose to file one.

After your BOH Appeal is filed, you will receive a free copy of your case file before the hearing. You may bring witnesses, present testimony and evidence, and question other witnesses at this hearing. Staff from the BOH will schedule hearings.

The following rules also apply:

- If the BOH reverses our decision to deny, reduce, limit, suspend, or end services that were not provided during the time of the Internal Appeal or External Appeal, we will approve the services as quickly as your health condition requires. In any event, we will approve the services no later than 72 hours from the date we receive BOH notice that it reversed our decision.
- If you receive "Continuing Services" while an Internal Appeal and a BOH Appeal was happening, we will pay for those services.

Section 11.14 How to request Continuing Services during the External Appeal to the Board of Hearings (BOH)

If your BOH Appeal involves a decision by us to change a service that we authorized in the past, including a decision to reduce, suspend, or end a service, you can choose to continue getting the requested services during the BOH Appeal process.

These services are called Continuing Services. If you want to get Continuing Services during the BOH Appeal process, you must file your BOH Appeal within 10 calendar days from the date of our letter to you that explained our decision on your Appeal. If you do not want to keep getting the requested services during your BOH Appeal, you must check Box A in Section III of the BOH Fair Hearing Request Form.

Whenever you Appeal our decision to deny, reduce, limit, suspend, or end health care services, you have a right to Continuing Services while your Internal Appeal and BOH Appeal are happening.

If we continue your services during the BOH Appeal process, WellSense must continue to cover these services until one of the following occurs:

- You withdraw your BOH Appeal request, in writing;
- The BOH makes a decision that is not favorable to you; or
- The original approval of services expires (ends) or service limits are met.

Section 11.15 How to file a Complaint (Grievance) and what to expect from us

What is a Complaint (Grievance)?

We use the words Complaint and Grievance to mean the same thing. You can report a Complaint to us at any time if you are not happy with us or a Provider for any reason. (Note: the Adverse Actions described in Section 11.2 are Appeals, not Complaints.) Here are some common types of Complaints:

- You are not satisfied with the quality of care or services you receive.
- You are not satisfied with the way you were treated by our staff or Network Providers.
- We extended the time to decide a Prior Authorization request or Internal Appeal and you disagree with this decision.
- We did not approve your request for an Expedited (fast) Internal Appeal, we processed it as a Standard Internal Appeal, and you do not agree with this decision.
- You believe our staff or Network Providers did not respect your rights.

How to file a Complaint (Grievance)

You may file a Complaint in writing, over the telephone, or in person. Here how to do this:

To File a Complaint	Contact Information
In writing or by fax	**For all medical complaints:** WellSense Health Plan—MassHealth Attn: Member Grievances 100 City Square, Suite 200 Charlestown, MA 02129 Fax: 617-897-0805 **For all Behavioral Health Complaints:** WellSense Health Plan Attn: Member Service Department, Concierge Specialist 100 City Square, Suite 200 Charlestown, MA 02129 Fax: 781-994-7636
By phone	**For all medical Complaints:** To submit a Complaint (Grievance) over the telephone, call our Member Service Department at 888-566-0010. **For all Behavioral Health Complaints:** Call WellSense at 888-217-3501

To File a Complaint	Contact Information

In person	**To submit a medical complaint in person, visit us at:** WellSense Health Plan 100 City Square, Suite 200 Charlestown, MA 02129 **To submit a Behavioral Health Complaint in person, visit us at:** WellSense Health Plan Attn: Member Service Department, Concierge Specialist 100 City Square, Suite 200 Charlestown, MA 02129
Directly with MassHealth	Call MassHealth Customer Services Department at 800-841-2900 (TTY: 800-497-4648), Monday–Friday, 8 a.m.– 5 p.m.

When can we dismiss your Complaint (Grievance)?

We may dismiss your Complaint if someone else files it for you and we did not receive permission for that person to be your Authorized Representative before our 30-calendar day timeframe for resolving your Complaint ends. If this happens, we will send you a letter saying that we will not consider your Complaint.

How quickly will we respond to your Complaint (Grievance)?

Once we receive your Complaint, we will send you a letter within one business day saying we received it. We will start to work right away to address your Complaint. We will send you a written response within 30 calendar days from the date we received your Complaint.

What do you do if you do not speak English?

We will help you with free interpreter or translation services during the Complaint process. If you have any questions about the Complaint process, please call our Member Service Department .

Chapter 12: Ending your ACO Plan membership

There are only certain times when your membership with our ACO Plan may end.

When you no longer qualify for MassHealth (Disenrollment for loss of eligibility)

If you are no longer eligible for MassHealth coverage, MassHealth will Disenroll (take you off) our ACO Plan. This means you will no longer be able to have coverage by the ACO Plan as of the date of your MassHealth Disenrollment. If you lose your MassHealth coverage, you must contact MassHealth if you want to start the re-enrollment process.

- If MassHealth re-enrolls you within 6 months following your Disenrollment date, they will place you in the same health plan you were Disenrolled from.
- If MassHealth re-enrolls you after 6 months from your Disenrollment date, they will place you either in the health plan you were Disenrolled from; or they will place you in a different MassHealth health plan.

When you decide you want to end your membership with our ACO Plan (voluntary Disenrollment)

You may choose to end your enrollment in our ACO Plan. This is called "voluntary Disenrollment." To Disenroll from our ACO Plan, call the MassHealth Customer Service Center. Voluntary Disenrollments usually begin one business day after we get the notification from MassHealth. There are different rules for voluntary Disenrollment during different times of the year:

Voluntary Disenrollment during the "Plan Selection Period"

Most Members have a 90-day period in which they can choose to change health plans for any reason. This is called the "Plan Selection Period." MassHealth will send you a letter. The letter will tell you when this period begins and ends.

To Disenroll from the ACO Plan during this period, call the MassHealth Customer Service Center. We will continue to cover you until you are Disenrolled.

Voluntary Disenrollment during the "Fixed Enrollment Period"

When your "Plan Selection Period" has ended, you will not be able to change your health plan until the next Plan Selection Period unless any of the following reasons apply and MassHealth approves. This period is called the "Fixed Enrollment Period."

- You move out of your ACO Plan's Service Area.

- We do not, because of moral or religious reasons, cover the service you need.

You need related services to be performed at the same time; the related services are not all available within our Provider Network; and your PCP or another Provider determines that getting the services separately would cause you unnecessary risk.

- You receive poor quality of care.
- You are not able to access Covered Services.
- You cannot get access to Providers experienced in dealing with your health care needs.
- We are no longer contracted with MassHealth in your Service Area.
- You show to MassHealth that we have not provided access to Providers that meet your health care needs over time, even after you asked for assistance.
- You are homeless, MassHealth's records indicate that you are homeless, and we cannot meet your needs in your area.
- You show MassHealth that we violated an important provision of our contract with MassHealth.
- MassHealth imposes a sanction on us that allows Members to disenroll from our ACO Plan without cause.
- You show to MassHealth that we are not meeting your language, communication, or other accessibility preferences or needs.
- You show MassHealth that your Providers, including PCPs, Specialists, or Behavioral Health Providers, have left your ACO Plan Provider Network.

Voluntary Disenrollment at any time for certain Members

The following ACO Plan Members do not have a Plan Selection Period or Fixed Enrollment Period. This means they can Disenroll from our ACO Plan at any time for any reason:

- Children who are in the care or custody of the Department of Children and Families (DCF)
- Youth who are in the care or custody of the Department of Youth Services (DYS)

- Newborns and children who are younger than one year old

Involuntary Disenrollment

We are not allowed to ask a Member to leave our ACO Plan for any reason related to: a Member's health; use of medical services; lessened mental capacity; or disruptive or non-cooperative behavior due to special needs. However, there may be cases where we are allowed to ask MassHealth to let us Involuntarily Disenroll a Member. MassHealth is the only one who can decide to approve our request. If you are involuntarily disenrolled, MassHealth will contact you.

Please note that you are still enrolled with WellSense, and we will provide your covered services until you are notified by MassHealth of an involuntary Disenrollment.

Chapter 13: Notice of Privacy Practices

This Notice describes how health information about you may be used and communicated, and how you can get this information. Please review this Notice of Privacy Practices carefully. If you have any questions, please call our Member Service Department. The Notice of Privacy Practices is effective September 23, 2013. This Notice describes how we may use and disclose your health information to carry out treatment, payment, or health care operations, and for other purposes that are permitted or required by law. It also describes your rights to access and control your health information. Protected Health Information ("PHI") is health information about you, including individually identifiable information, related to your physical or Behavioral Health condition used in providing health care to you or for payment for health care services.

By law, we are required to:

- Maintain the privacy and confidentiality of your Protected Health Information.
- Give you this Notice of Privacy Practices.
- Follow the practices in this Notice.

We use physical, electronic, and procedural safeguards to protect your privacy. Even when disclosure of PHI is allowed, we only use and disclose PHI to the minimum amount necessary for the permitted purpose. Other than the situations mentioned in this Notice of Privacy Practices, we cannot use or share your Protected Health Information without your written permission, and you may cancel your permission any time by sending us a written notice. We reserve the right to change this Notice of Privacy Practices and to make the revised notice effective for any of your current or future Protected Health Information. You are entitled to a copy of the Notice of Privacy Practices currently in effect.

We May Use and Communicate Protected Health Information (PHI) About You

- **For Treatment:** We may communicate PHI about you to doctors, nurses, technicians, office staff, or other personnel who are involved in taking care of you and need the information to provide you with medical care. For example, if you are being treated for a back injury, we may share information with your Primary Care Provider, the back specialist, and the physical therapist so they can determine the proper care for you. We will also record the actions they took and the medical claims they made. Other

examples of when we may disclose your PHI include:

- Quality improvement and cost containment, wellness programs, preventive health initiatives, early detection programs, safety initiatives, and disease management programs.
- To administer quality-based cost-effective care models, such as sharing information with medical providers about the services you receive elsewhere to assure effective and high-quality coordinated care.

- **For Payment:** We may use and disclose your PHI to administer your health benefits, which may include claims payment, utilization review activities, determination of eligibility, medical necessity review, coordination of benefits, and Appeals. For example, we may pay claims submitted to us by a Provider or hospital.
- **For Health care Administration: For health care operations: We may use and disclose your PHI to support our normal business activities. For example, we may use your information for Care Management, customer service, coordination of care, or quality management.**

Appointment Reminders/Treatment Alternatives/Health-Related Benefits and Services: We may contact you to provide appointment or refill reminders, or information about possible treatment options or alternatives and other health-related benefits, or services that may be of interest to you.

As Required By Law: We will disclose PHI about you when we are required to do so by international, federal, state, or local law.

Business Associates: We may disclose PHI to our business associates who perform functions on our behalf or provide services if the PHI is necessary for those functions or services. All of our business associates are obligated, under contract with us, to protect the privacy of your PHI.

Coroners, Medical Examiners and Funeral Directors: We may communicate PHI to coroners, medical examiners, and funeral directors for identification purposes and as needed to help them carry out their duties consistent with applicable law.

Correctional Facilities: If you are or become an inmate in a correctional facility, we may communicate your PHI to the correctional facility or its agents, as necessary, for your health and the health and safety of other individuals.

Disaster Relief: We may communicate PHI to an authorized public or private entity for disaster relief purposes. For example, we might communicate your PHI to help notify family members of your location or general condition.

Family and Friends: We may communicate PHI to a member of your family, a relative, a close friend, or any other person you identify who is directly involved in your health care or payment related to your care.

Food and Drug Administration (FDA): We may communicate to the FDA, or persons under the jurisdiction of the FDA, your PHI as it relates to adverse events with drugs, foods, supplements and other products and marketing information to support product recalls, repairs, or replacement.

Health Oversight Activities: We may communicate your PHI to state or federal health oversight agencies authorized to oversee the health care system or governmental programs, or to their contractors, for activities authorized by law, audits, investigations, inspections, and licensing purposes.

Law Enforcement: We may release your PHI upon request by a law enforcement official in response to a valid court order, subpoena, or similar process.

Lawsuits and Disputes: If you are involved in a lawsuit or dispute, we may communicate PHI about you in response to a court or administrative order. We may also communicate PHI about you because of a subpoena or other lawful process, subject to all applicable legal requirements.

Military, Veterans, National Security, and Intelligence: If you are a member of the armed forces, we may release your PHI as required by military command authorities. We may be required by other government authorities to release your PHI for national security activities.

Minors: We may disclose PHI of minor children to their parents or guardians unless such disclosure is otherwise prohibited by law.

Organ and Tissue Donation: If you are an organ or tissue donor, we may use or disclose your PHI to organizations that handle organ procurement or transplantation—such as an organ bank—as necessary to facilitate organ or tissue donation and transplantation.

Personal Representative: If you have a personal representative, such as a legal guardian (or an executor or administrator of your estate after your death), we will treat that person as if that person is you with respect to disclosures of your PHI.

Public Health and Safety: We may communicate your PHI for public health activities. This includes disclosures to: (1) prevent or control disease, injury, or disability; (2) report birth and deaths; (3) report child abuse or neglect; (4) a person who may have been exposed to a disease or may be at risk for contracting or spreading a disease or condition; (5) the appropriate government authority if we believe a person has been the victim of abuse, neglect, or domestic violence and the person agrees or we are required to by law to make that disclosure; or (6) when necessary to prevent a serious threat to your health and safety or the health and safety of the public or another person.

Research: We may use and disclose your PHI for research purposes, but we will only do that if the research has been specially approved by an institutional review board or a privacy board that has reviewed the research proposal and has set up protocols to ensure the privacy of your PHI. Even without that special approval, we may permit researchers to look at PHI to help them prepare for research, for example, to allow them to identify persons who may be included in their research project, as long as they do not remove, or take a copy of, any PHI. We may use and disclose a limited data set that does not contain specific readily identifiable information about you for research. But we will only disclose the limited data set if we enter into a data use agreement with the recipient who must agree to (1) use the data set only for the purposes for which it was provided, (2) ensure the security of the data, and (3) not identify the information or use it to contact any individual.

Workers' Compensation: We may use or disclose PHI for workers' compensation or similar programs that provide benefits for work-related injuries or illness.

Uses and Disclosures that Require Us to Give You an Opportunity to Object and Opt Out Fundraising: We may use PHI about you in an effort to raise money. If you do not want us to contact you for fundraising efforts, you may opt out by notifying us, in writing, with a letter addressed to the WellSense Privacy Officer.

Special Protections for HIV, Alcohol and Substance Use, Mental Health, and Genetic Information: Special privacy protections apply to

HIV-related information, alcohol and substance abuse, mental health, and genetic information that require your written permission, and therefore some parts of this general Notice of Privacy Practices may not apply to these more restricted kinds of PHI.

Your Rights Regarding Protected Health Information about You

Right to Access and Copy: You have the right to inspect and obtain a copy of your PHI. To do so, you must submit a written request to the WellSense Privacy Officer. We will provide you with a copy or a summary of your records, usually within 30 days. We may ask you to pay a fee to cover our costs of providing you with that PHI, and certain information may not be easily available prior to July 1, 2002. We may deny your request to inspect and copy, in certain limited circumstances.

Right to an Electronic Copy of PHI: You have the right to require that an electronic copy of your health information be given to you or transmitted to another individual or entity if it is readily producible. We may charge you a reasonable, cost-based fee for the labor associated with transmitting the electronic record.

Right to Get Notice of a Security Breach: We are required to notify you by first class mail of any breach of your Unsecured PHI as soon as possible, but no later than 60 days after we discover the breach. "Unsecured PHI" is PHI that has not been made unusable or unreadable. The notice will give you the following information:

- A short description of what happened, the date of the breach and the date it was discovered;
- The steps you should take to protect yourself from potential harm from the breach;
- The steps we are taking to investigate the breach, mitigate loses, and protect against further breaches; and
- Contact information where you can ask questions and get additional information.

Right to Amend: If you believe the PHI we have about you is incorrect or incomplete, you may ask us to amend the PHI. You must request an amendment, in writing, to the WellSense Privacy Officer and include a reason that supports your request. In certain cases, we may deny your request for amendment, but we will advise you of the reason within 60 days. For example, we may deny a request if we did not create the information, or if we believe the current information is correct.

Right to an Accounting of Disclosures: You have the right to request an "accounting of

disclosures." This is a list of the disclosures we made of PHI about you for most purposes other than treatment, payment, health care operations. The right to receive an accounting is subject to certain exceptions, restrictions, and limitations. To obtain an accounting, you must submit your request, in writing, to the WellSense Privacy Officer. We will provide one accounting a year, but may charge a reasonable, cost-based fee if you submit a request for another one within 12 months. It must state a time period, which may not be longer than six years and may not include dates before April 14, 2003.

Right to Request Restrictions: You have the right to request, in writing, to the WellSense Privacy Officer, a restriction or limitation on our use or disclosure of your PHI. We are not, however, required by law to agree to your request. If we do agree, we will comply with your request unless the PHI is needed to provide Emergency treatment to you.

Right to Request Confidential Communication: You have the right to request that we communicate with you about medical matters only in writing or at a different residence or post office box. To request confidential communications, you must complete and submit a Request for Confidential Communication Form to the WellSense Privacy Officer. Your request must specify how or where you wish to be contacted. We will accommodate all reasonable requests.

Right to Notice of Privacy Practice: You have the right to receive a paper copy of the Notice of Privacy Practices upon request at any time.

How to Exercise Your Rights

To exercise your rights as described in this Notice, send your request, in writing, to our Privacy Officer at the address listed in this Notice.

Assistance in Preparing Written Documents: WellSense will provide you with assistance in preparing any of the requests explained in this Notice that must be submitted in writing. There will be no cost to you for this.

Your Written Authorization Is Required for Other Uses and Disclosures

Other Uses and Disclosures of PHI: We will obtain your written authorization before using or disclosing your PHI for purposes other than those provided for above (or as otherwise permitted or required by law). You may revoke such an authorization at any time. Upon receipt of the written revocation, we will stop using or disclosing your PHI, except to the extent that we have already taken action in reliance on the authorization.

We will never sell your health information or use your health information for marketing purposes or to offer you services or products unrelated to your health care coverage or

your health status, without your written authorization.

Compliance with State and Federal Laws: If more than one law applies to this Notice, we will follow the more stringent law. You may be entitled to additional rights under state law, and we protect your health information as required by these state laws.

Complaints: If you believe your privacy rights have been violated, you may file a complaint with our office or with the Department of Health and Human Services. To file a complaint with our office, contact:

Privacy Officer WellSense Health Plan

100 City Square Suite 200

Charlestown, MA 02129

Or, you may call this office at 617-748-6325, Monday-Friday from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

You may also notify the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

Send your complaint to:

Medical Privacy

Complaint Division Office for Civil Rights (OCR)

United States Department of Health and Human Services 200 Independence Avenue, SW, Room 509F, HHH Building Washington, D.C., 20201

You may also contact OCR's Voice Hotline Number at 800-368-1019 or send the information to their internet address: hhs.gov/ocr. We will not take retaliatory action against you if you file a complaint about our privacy practices with OCR or us.

If you have any questions or would like a copy of this Notice of Privacy Practices, please contact our Member Service Department.

Method	Our Member Service Department—Contact Information
Call	888-566-0010 (English/other languages) 888-566-0012 (Spanish) Hours: Monday–Friday from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Calls to this number are free. Our Member Service Department has free interpreter services for non-English speakers.
TTY/TDD	For hearing impaired: 711 (TTY/TDD) 711 (Relay operator) This number requires special telephone equipment. It is only for people with hearing or speaking problems. Calls are free.
Fax	617-897-0884
Write	WellSense Health Plan Attn: Member Service Department 100 City Square, Suite 200 Charlestown, MA 02129 MemberQuestions@wellsense.org
Website	wellsense.org

Chapter 14: Notice about Nondiscrimination and Accessibility Requirements and Nondiscrimination Statement

We comply with applicable federal civil rights laws and do not discriminate, exclude people, or treat them differently because of race, color national origin, age, disability, sex, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, moral or religious grounds, or limited English proficiency.

We provide free aids and services to people with disabilities to help communicate effectively with us, such as:

- Qualified sign language interpreters
- Written information in other formats (large print, audio, accessible electronic formats, other formats)
- Free language services to people whose primary language is not English, such as qualified interpreters and information written in other languages

If you need these services, please contact our Member Service Department. See Chapter 2 for contact information.

If you believe that we have failed to provide these services or discriminated in another way because of race, color, national origin, age, disability, sex, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, moral or religious grounds, or limited English proficiency, you can file a Complaint with:

WellSense Health Plan

Attn: Civil Rights Coordinator 100 City Square, Suite 200

Charlestown, MA 02129

Phone: 888-566-0010 (TTY/TDD 711)

Fax: 617-897-0805

E-mail: MemberQuestions@wellsense.org

You can file a Complaint (Grievance) in person or by mail, fax, or e-mail. If you need help filing a Complaint (Grievance), our Member Service Department is available to help you.

You can also file a civil rights complaint with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office for Civil Rights. To do this electronically through the Office for Civil Rights Complaint Portal, go to ocrportal.hhs.gov/ocr/portal/lobby.jsf.

Or to file by mail or phone: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services 200 Independence Avenue, SW

Room 509F, HHH Building Washington, D.C. 20201

800-368-1019, 800-537-7697 (TDD)

Complaint forms are also available at hhs.gov/ocr/office/file/index.html.

Chapter 15: Other important ACO Plan information

Section 15.1 Structure and Operations of WellSense

Here is some information about us:

- "WellSense" is the trade name of the legal entity Boston Medical Center Health Plan, Inc. Another trade name is "WellSense Health Plan."
- We are a Massachusetts non-profit, tax-exempt 501(c) (3) corporation.
- We are licensed by the Massachusetts Division of Insurance as a health maintenance organization (HMO).
- We are a Medicaid managed care organization.
- Our corporate office is located in Charlestown, MA.
- We are part of a family of companies that includes Boston Medical Center.
- We have a Board of Trustees. It oversees us.
- We contract with some other companies. They help us with our ACO Plans. For example:
    - Express Scripts helps with pharmacy services.
- We contract with MassHealth.
- We partner with Accountable Care Organizations to offer our ACO Plans.
- We offer other health coverage programs in addition to MassHealth:
    - We offer a Senior Care Options plan and Qualified Health Plans.
    - In New Hampshire, we offer a Medicaid plan.

For more information about us, please call our Member Service Department at 888-566-0010 (English/Other Language), 888-566-0012 (Spanish) or TDD/TTY: 711, Monday - Friday from 8a.m. to 6 p.m.

Section 15.2 Quality Improvement Program

The goal of WellSense Health Plan's quality program is to ensure our Members have access to high quality health care, health information and service. WellSense works to help Members improve their physical and behavioral health well-being.

Examples of quality program activities include measurement and tracking of Plan performance on health care measures, as well as the development and distribution of clinical standards and guidelines in areas such as preventive care, member satisfaction, and appointment access.

Section 15.3 Clinical Practice Guidelines

We have Clinical Practice Guidelines (CPGs). CPGs are tools that recommend the best care for medical conditions and preventive health. CPGs are used by our Network Providers to make sure Members get the right care in the right way, for example to recommend tests and screenings to manage your health. We get the CPGs from professional health organizations, or we work with others to develop the CPGs. We share the CPGs with our whole Provider Network. You may also ask for a copy of our current CPGs. To do so, call our Member Service Department at 888-566-0010 (English/Other Language), 888-566-0012 (Spanish) or TDD/TTY: 711, Monday - Friday from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Section 15.4 Utilization Management (UM)

UM is the process we use to make sure the care you get is "Medically Necessary." This is care you need when and where you need it. Our UM includes:

- Pre-service review
- Urgent or ongoing review
- Post-service review

UM looks at the clinical needs, appropriateness, and efficiency of:

- Services and supplies
- Equipment and drugs
- Procedures and settings

We make decisions based on criteria from scientific and medical research. The criteria are developed with input from Providers. This process and the criteria support the correct use of services. This helps to give our Members the best health outcomes. We do not reward any decision-maker for denying coverage of a service. We do not offer them money to discourage them from approving coverage. UM decisions are based on whether care is appropriate and the existence of coverage.

For more information about UM, call our Member Service Department at 888-566-0010

(English/Other Language), 888-566-0012 (Spanish) or TDD/TTY: 711, Monday - Friday from 8

a.m. to 6 p.m. After hours, please leave a message or send a fax. All messages will be read the next business day. Member Service can also connect you to our clinical staff to discuss UM.

Section 15.5 Review of new technology

We review new clinical technologies and new uses for current technologies. We do this to decide if they are safe and effective. Then we decide if we will cover it. These technologies may include:

- A medical treatment or surgical procedure
- A device, test, drug or biologic

Our review includes:

- Getting advice from experts who know about the technology or medical condition
- Evaluating reliable medical research
- Reviewing reports from public agencies
- Reviewing standards of care from national medical groups and other reliable sources

This information is then presented to our internal committees. These include doctors and other Providers (such as pharmacists). These committees make final decisions about whether we will cover the new technology or a new use of a current technology.

Section 15.6 Physician incentive plans

We can give you a written summary of our physician incentive plans. Please call our Member Service Department at 888-566-0010 (English/Other Language), 888-566-0012 (Spanish) or TDD/TTY: 711, Monday - Friday from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Chapter 16: Definitions of important words

ACO Plan: A type of health plan offered by us. The ACO Plan provides you access to quality health care. See Section 1.2.

ACO Covered Services: Those services which are required to be provided by the Plan as specified in **Appendix C** of this handbook.

ACO-Eligible Member: A Member who is eligible to enroll in a MassHealth ACO.

ACO Plan Member ID Card: The card we send that names a person as a Member of the ACO Plan. The card includes your name, ID number, and the name of your ACO Network. (This Member ID Card is not the same as the ID Card you get from MassHealth.)

Adverse Action: The following actions (or inactions) by us:

- Denying or providing limited Authorization for a service requested by your Provider.
- Reducing, suspending, or ending coverage for a Covered Service we previously Authorized.
- Denying, in whole or in part, payment for a service
- Not providing Covered Services in a timely way.
- Failing to make an Authorization decision within the times in Section 5.7.
- Not acting within the times described in Chapter 11.
- The involuntary transfer of a member to a different PCP except as listed in this document

Advance Directive: A legal document that allows you to:

- Name someone in advance to make medical decisions for you; and
- Write written guidelines about your future medical care.
- This document applies if you are not able to make those decisions for yourself.

Appeal: An Appeal is something you may do if you do not agree with an Adverse Action by us. For example, you may Appeal if we make a decision not to cover a service you think should be covered. See Chapter 11.

Authorize, or Authorization: see Prior Authorization.

Authorized Representative: A person you name in writing to act for you as it relates to Appeals and Complaints.

Behavioral Health Help Line: Telephone, text, chat, website, etc. that provides Behavioral Health information, resources, and referrals, including 24/7 referral and access to the appropriate provider.

Behavioral Health Services: Mental health and substance use disorder services.

Behavioral Health Supports for Individuals with Justice Involvement (BH-JI): BH-JI supports that help Members with justice involvement, including those members who are currently incarcerated or detained in a correctional facility, released from a correctional institution within one year, or who are under the supervision of the Massachusetts Probation Service or the Massachusetts Parole Board, in accessing health care services, and primarily behavioral health services.

Behavioral Health Urgent Care: Same-day or next-day appointments for evaluation or assessment for new clients and urgent appointments for existing clients; psychopharmacology appointments and Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) now known as Medication for Opioid Use Disorder (MOUD); and additional availability outside of weekday hours between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., by certain Mental Health Centers (MHC).

Benefit Limit: Day, visit, or dollar limits that may apply to certain Covered Services. If the amount of the benefits you receive reaches a Benefit Limit for a Covered Service, no more benefits will be provided for that Covered Service for the rest of the Benefit Year (or other stated time period). See the Covered Services List for Benefit Limits.

Benefit Year: The time period during which a Benefit Limit applies. For 2023, the Benefit Year begins on April 1, 2023 and ends on December 31, 2023. Thereafter Benefit Years will begin on January 1 and end on December 31.

Board of Hearings (BOH): The Board of Hearings in the Massachusetts Office of Medicaid.

Board of Hearings (BOH) Appeal: See "External Appeal."

Care Coordinator: A provider-based clinician or other trained individual who is employed or contracted by the Plan or a Member's PCP. They will provide care coordination activities, which include referrals and sharing of useful patient information; obtaining accurate information about services other than those provided by the PCP; participating in the Enrollee's Comprehensive Assessment, if any; and supporting safe transitions in care for Enrollees moving between settings in accordance with the Plan's Transitional Care Management program. The Care Coordinator may serve on one or more care teams, coordinates and facilitates meetings, and other activities of those Care Teams.

Care Management: A program that provides Members with extra support to help reach their health care goals. See Chapter 7.

Care Manager/Clinical Care Manager: An individual employed by the Plan or the Member's PCP to provide clinical care management including monitoring, follow-up, care coordination, and clinical management of high- and rising-risk Members.

Care Needs Screening (CNS): A form that Members fill out about their health. This helps us provide the right care to Members.

Care Plan: The plan of care developed by the Member and others involved in the Member's care or Care Management, including Person-Centered Treatment Plans developed by BH Community Partners (CPs) and LTSS CPs**.**

Care Team: A multidisciplinary team responsible for coordinating certain aspects of a member's care.

Care Team Point of Contact: A member of a BH CP or LTSS CP Member's care team responsible for ongoing communication with the care team. The Care Team Point of Contact may be the Member's PCP or PCP Designee, or the Plan's staff member that has face-to- face contact with the PCP or the care team.

Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS) Tool: A tool that provides a standardized way to organize information gathered during Behavioral Health Clinical Assessments and during the Discharge Planning process from Inpatient Mental Health Services and Community Based Acute Treatment Services. A Massachusetts version of the CANS Tool has been developed and is intended to be used as a treatment decision support tool for Behavioral Health Providers serving Enrollees under the age of 21.

Children's Behavioral Health Initiative (CBHI): A program whose goals are to

strengthen, expand and integrate Behavioral Health Services for Members under the age of 21 into a comprehensive system of community-based, culturally competent care.

Children's Behavioral Health Initiative Services or CBHI Services: Any of the following services: Intensive Care Coordination (ICC), Family Support and Training, In-Home Behavioral Services (including Behavior Management Therapy and Behavior Management Monitoring) and Therapeutic Mentoring Services, In-Home Therapy Services (including Therapeutic Clinical Intervention and Ongoing Therapeutic Training and Support), Family-based Intensive Treatment, and Youth Mobile Crisis Intervention.

CBHI Services Medical Necessity Criteria: The criteria used to determine the amount, duration or scope of services to ensure the provision of CBHI Services that are Medically Necessary.

Children in the Care or Custody of the Commonwealth: Children who are Members and who are in the care or protective custody of the Department of Children and Families (DCF), or in the custody of the Department of Youth Services (DYS).

Chronic Homelessness: A definition established by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) of a disabled individual who has been continuously homeless on the streets or in an emergency shelter or safe haven for 12 months or longer, or has had four or more episodes of homelessness (on the streets, or in an emergency shelter, or safe haven) over a three-year period meeting certain criteria. To meet the disabled part of the definition, the individual must have a diagnosable substance use disorder, serious and persistent mental illness, developmental disability, post-traumatic stress disorder, cognitive impairment resulting from a brain injury, or chronic physical illness, or disability, including the co- occurrence of two or more of those conditions.

Claim: A bill from a Provider for services that have been provided to a Member.

Clinical Advice and Support Line: A phone line that provides Members with information to support access to and coordination of appropriate care.

Community Behavioral Health Center (CBHC): A comprehensive community behavioral health center offering crisis, urgent, and routine substance use disorder and mental health services, care coordination, peer supports, and screening and coordination with primary care. A CBHC will provide access to same-day and next-day services and expanded service hours including evenings and weekends. A CBHC must provide services to adults and youth, including infants and young children, and their families. CBHC services include an Adult Mobile Crisis Intervention (AMCI), Youth Mobile Crisis Intervention (YMCI), Adult Community Crisis Stabilization (Adult CCS) and Youth Community Crisis Stabilization (YCCS).

Community Partner: A community organization that works with Members and us. It helps plan care and coordinate services for Members. These Members have very high needs for Behavioral Health services or for long-term services and supports (LTSS). There are two types of Community Partners: one specializes in Behavioral Health; and the other specializes in LTSS.

Community Service Agency (CSA): A community-based Behavioral Health provider organization whose function is to facilitate access to the continuum of Behavioral Health services by providing an organized pathway to care for children and families where the child is referred for Intensive Care Coordination or Family-based Intensive Treatment. A primary mechanism through which CSAs serve this function is as the provider of Intensive Care Coordination, Family Support and Training Services, and Family-based Intensive Treatment which are BH Covered Services.

Co-Morbid Disorders: The diagnosis of both a physical disorder and a behavioral health disorder, or two different physical health disorders.

Complaint (Grievance): A Complaint is a statement of dissatisfaction by a Member about any action or inaction by us or Network Providers. The formal name for a Complaint is a Grievance. Examples include Complaints about:

- Quality of care or services
- Rudeness by a Provider or staff
- Failure to respect a Member's rights.
- Complaints do not include Adverse Actions.

Comprehensive Assessment: A person-centered assessment of an Enrollee's care needs, functional needs, accessibility needs, goals, etc.

Continuing Services: The process of continuing to receive coverage during an Internal Appeal or BOH Appeal for Covered Services we previously Authorized.

Continuity of Care: A process to help ensure that Members do not have interruptions in health care services. This may apply when a Member switches health plans or when there are Provider changes. See Section 3.10.

Co-Occurring Disorders (or Dual Diagnoses): Medical conditions involving both a mental health disorder and a substance use disorder at the same time

Copayment: A set amount you may have to pay as your share of the cost for a Covered Service. Please note that as of April 1, 2024, there are no copayments for any Covered Service.

Covered Services: The general term for all of the health care services, supplies, equipment and drugs covered by us and MassHealth. These are described in:

- The Covered Services List in the back of this Handbook; and
- Chapter 5

Covered Services List: This is the list of Covered Services covered by us and MassHealth. The list is at the back of the Handbook and is titled "Prior Authorization (PA) and Referral Requirements for Covered Services for WellSense Accountable Care Organization Plan (ACO Plan) Members."

Crisis Prevention Plan: A plan that helps get Member/family-focused clinical care during a psychiatric crisis, using what has been learned from past treatment. This Plan includes a checklist of the triggers that may lead to or escalate a psychiatric crisis. The plan also includes the Member's preferences related to the involvement of the Member and his/her family or other supports, which could include behavioral health providers, community social service agencies, and community supports. This type of plan may also be referred to as a Wellness Recovery Action Plan (WRAP) for adults with Serious and Persistent Mental Illness (SPMI), and a Risk Management Safety Plan for children with Serious Emotional Disturbance (SED) and their families.

Cultural and Linguistic Competence: Competence, understanding, and awareness with respect to Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services

Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services: Health care services that are respectful of and responsive to cultural and linguistic needs, and that are characterized by cultural and linguistic competence., More detail on CLAS standards may be found here: https://www.mass.gov/info-details/clas-national-standards

Discharge Planning: The evaluation of an Member's medical and Behavioral Health care needs and coordination of any other support services in order to arrange for safe and appropriate care and living situation after discharge from one care setting (e.g., acute

hospital, inpatient behavioral health facility) to another care setting (e.g., rehabilitation hospital, group home), including referral to and coordination of appropriate services.

Disease Management: The Plan's disease or condition specific benefits related to ongoing services and assistance for specific disease and/or conditions. Services include specific interventions and education/outreach targeted to Members with, or at risk for, these conditions. These conditions include but are not limited to Special Health Care Needs, Members with Serious and Persistent Mental Illness, AIDS, Severe Physical Disabilities, and Pregnancy.

Disenroll or Disenrollment: The process of ending your membership in your ACO Plan. Disenrollment may be:

- Voluntary (your own choice); or
- Not voluntary (not your own choice) See Chapter 12.

Drug List: A list of drugs covered and not covered by us. It includes brand name and generic drugs. Sometimes a Drug List is called a "formulary."

Dually Eligible: Individuals determined eligible for both Medicaid and Medicare.

Durable Medical Equipment: Certain equipment that is ordered by your doctor for medical reasons. Examples are walkers and wheelchairs.

Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment (EPSDT): The delivery of health care services to MassHealth Standard and CommonHealth Members under the age of 21, subject to an EPSDT Periodicity Schedule.

Early Intensive Behavioral Intervention (EIBI): Provided to children under three years of age who have a diagnosis of autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and meet clinical eligibility criteria. Such services shall be provided only by DPH-approved, Early Intensive Behavioral Intervention Service Providers

Early Intervention Services: A comprehensive program for children between the ages of birth and three years who have developmental delays or are at risk of delays through the influence of certain biological or environmental factors. Early Intervention Services include a set of integrated community-based developmental services which use a family centered approach.

Effective Date: The date on which a person:

- Becomes a Member of the ACO Plan; and
- Is eligible for Covered Services

Emergency: A condition

- That is either physical or mental; and
- With such serious symptoms, including severe pain, that anyone with an average knowledge of health could reasonably expect is so serious that if it does not get immediate medical attention, it may result in serious danger to your health.

This danger could include:

- Serious harm to bodily functions;
- Serious dysfunction of any body organ or part; or
- In the case of a pregnant individual who is in active labor if there is not enough time to safely transfer the individual to another hospital before delivery, or if the transfer may pose a threat to their health or safety or to that of their unborn child.

Excluded Services: Health care services and supplies we do not cover.

Excluded and Limited Services List: This list of health care services and supplies that have a benefit limit or are not covered by MassHealth or us. This list appears at the back of this handbook and is titled "Excluded and Limited Services List."

Expedited (fast) Internal Appeal: A 72-hour Appeal process. It is a faster process than a Standard Internal Appeal.

Express Scripts: The company we contract with to manage our drug benefits. It also manages a Network of pharmacies. See Chapter 6.

External Appeal (or a "Board of Hearings (BOH) Appeal"): An Appeal you make to the BOH in the Office of Medicaid.

Family Planning Services: Services to prevent getting pregnant. They include:

Birth control counseling

Family planning education

Exams and treatment

Lab tests

Medically approved birth control methods

Pharmacy supplies and devices

Sterilization, including tubal ligation and vasectomy (Abortion is not a Family Planning

Service.)

Family Resource Centers (FRCs) of Massachusetts: A statewide network that provides services to strengthen families and keep them connected to resources within their own community. There are FRCs in every county in the state. The FRCs help family's access housing and employment supports as well as health and behavioral health services. They also provide school supports, assistance with childcare and transportation, and provide equipment, clothing, food, and other assistance to families.

Final Internal Appeal Decision: The Contractor's final review of an expedited or standard Internal Appeal.

Fixed Enrollment Period: A nine-month period every year, when MassHealth does not permit Members to change health plans unless certain reasons apply. See Chapter 12.

Formulary: Please see "Drug List"

Fraud, Waste, and Abuse:

- **Fraud:** Intentional deception by a person who knows that the deception could result in some unauthorized benefit. An example is if a Member lends their ID Card to others to get health services.
- **Waste:** Extra costs that happen when health care services are overused; or when bills are not done correctly. Unlike Fraud, Waste is usually caused by mistake rather than intentional wrongful actions.
- **Abuse:** Provider actions that:
  - Are not consistent with sound fiscal, business or medical practices; and
  - Result in an unnecessary cost to MassHealth; or in payment for services that are not Medically

Necessary; or that do not meet recognized health care standards. It also includes Member actions that result in unnecessary cost to MassHealth.

Grievance: A Grievance is a formal name for a "Complaint." See "Complaint."

Health Equity: The opportunity for everyone to reach their full health potential. Regardless of their social position (e.g., socioeconomic status) or socially assigned circumstance (e.g., race, gender identity/gender expression, ethnicity, disability status, religion, sexual orientation, geography, disability, language etc.).

Health Related Social Needs (HRSN): The immediate daily needs that come from the lack of resources caused by the social determinants of health, such as a lack of access to stable housing, an environment free of life-threatening toxins, healthy food, utilities including heating and internet access, transportation, physical and mental health care, safety from violence, education and employment, and social connection.

Hospice: A package of services for terminally ill patients. Examples include:

- Nursing
- Medical social services
- Physician services
- Counseling
- Drugs
- Durable Medical Equipment

Incarcerated: Individuals or Members whose freedom of movement is restricted to the level where they are considered inmates under CMS policy and who are in custody in (1) county houses of correction or jails; (2) Department of Corrections (DOC) facilities; or (3) certain Department of Youth Services (DYS) facilities or programs.

Inpatient: A hospital stay when you have been formally admitted to the hospital for skilled medical services.

Inquiry: Any verbal or written question a Member has about our operations. It does not include a Complaint (Grievance).

Internal Appeal: A verbal or written request for us to review an Adverse Action. These can be Standard or Expedited (fast) Internal Appeals.

Long-Term Services and Supports (LTSS): A wide number of services and supports to help certain Members with activities of daily living and improve the quality of their lives. Examples include help with bathing; dressing and other basic activities of daily life; and self-care. LTSS may also include help with laundry, shopping, and transportation. LTSS are provided mostly in homes and communities. They can also be provided in facilities such as nursing facilities.

LTSS CP: Long-Term Services and Supports Community Partner.

MassHealth: The state's Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program. MassHealth provides affordable health care coverage for eligible residents that meet certain criteria. MassHealth's mission is to improve the health outcomes of our diverse members and their families by providing access to integrated health care services that support health, well-

being, independence, and quality of life.

MassHealth Managed Care: The provision of Primary Care, Behavioral Health, and other services through an ACO, MCO, or the PCC Plan for all managed care eligible Members under age 65, based on state and federal requirements.

Medically Necessary (or Medical Necessity): Services, supplies, or drugs that:

- Are needed to prevent, diagnose, or treat your medical condition;
- Meet recognized accepted standards of medical practice; and
- For which there is no comparable medical service or setting available or suitable for the Member that is more conservative or less costly.

Medication for Opioid Use Disorder (MOUD): The use of FDA approved medications for the treatment of substance use disorders; formerly known as Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT).

Member: A person who is enrolled in our ACO Plan by MassHealth.

Member ID Card: See ACO Plan Member ID Card

Member Service Department: A department within WellSense. Our staff can answer your questions about the ACO Plan. For example, questions about:

- Your membership
- Covered Services
- Network Providers
- Complaints (Grievances) and Appeals See Chapter 2.

Network: See Provider Network.

Network Provider or Provider: A Provider who has a contract with us to provide Covered Services to Members in the ACO Plan.

Non-ACO Covered Services: Those services that are coordinated by the Plan, but are provided by MassHealth.

Ombudsman: An independent organization, that has been contracted by MassHealth to help address issues you or your authorized representative have with the ACO, such as problems enrolling or getting services.

Opioid Treatment Programs (OTP): Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)-certified programs, usually including a facility, staff, administration, patients, and services, that provide assessment and treatment, using approved medications, of individuals who are addicted to opioids.

Out-of-Network Provider: A Provider who does not have a contract with us to provide Covered Services to ACO Plan Members. See Section 3.9.

Peer Supports: Activities to support recovery and rehabilitation provided by other users of behavioral health services.

Pharmacy Programs: Programs that apply special rules to certain drugs before we will cover those drugs.

Plan Selection Period: A 90-day period every year when MassHealth allows Members to change health plans for any reason. See Chapter 12.

Population Management (also Population Health): Population management is an approach to health that aims to improve the health of the entire population and to reduce inconsistent care among population groups.

Post-stabilization Care: Care received right after Emergency care. This care is given to maintain the Member's stabilized condition. In certain cases, it is to improve or resolve the condition.

Primary Care Provider (PCP): A Provider you pick, or to whom we assign you. Your PCP provides and coordinates all your health care. PCPs include nurse practitioners practicing in collaboration with a physician under Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 112, Section 80B and its implementing regulations or physicians who are board certified or eligible for certification in one of the following specialties: Family Practice, Internal Medicine, General Practice, Adolescent and Pediatric Medicine, or Obstetrics/Gynecology. PCPs also include Physician Assistants performing services under the supervision of a physician under Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 112 and its implementing regulations who satisfy the requirements to be a primary care clinician under 130 CMR 450.118(B)(6). PCPs for persons with disabilities, including but not limited to, persons with HIV/AIDS, may include practitioners who are board certified or eligible for certification in other relevant specialties. See Section 3.3.

Prior Authorization: Approval we give in advance to your Provider. This approval allows coverage for certain services.

Protected Health Information (PHI): PHI is health information about you, or about your health care or payment for your health care.

Provider: A health care professional or facility licensed under state law. Providers include:

- Doctors
- Hospitals, skilled nursing facilities
- Labs

- Pharmacies
- Nurse practitioners, registered nurses
- Social workers, licensed mental health counselors, clinical specialists in psychiatric and mental health nursing, and licensed alcohol and drug counselors

We only cover services of a Provider if those services are within the scope of the Provider's license.

Provider Listing: An online search tool on our website, or a printed booklet listing ACO Plan Network Providers.

Provider Network: The combined group of Providers who contract with us to provide Covered Services to Members in the ACO Plan. This includes, but is not limited to, physical, behavioral, pharmacy, and ancillary service providers.

Routine Care: Care that is not an Emergency or Urgent Care. Examples are physical exams, preventive care, and well childcare visits.

Second Opinion: The process by which a Member seeks an opinion by another Provider to confirm the diagnosis and treatment plan of their Provider.

Serious Emotional Disturbance (SED): A behavioral health condition that meets the definition in the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), *or* the definition set forth in regulations governing the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) of the United States

Serious and Persistent Mental Illness (SPMI): A mental illness that includes a substantial disorder of thought, mood, perception, which grossly impairs judgment, behavior, capacity to recognize reality or the ability to meet the ordinary demands of life; and is the primary cause of functional impairment that substantially interferes with or limits

the performance of one or more major life activities, and is expected to do so in the succeeding year; and meets diagnostic criteria specified with the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders* (4th ed., text revision) American Psychiatric Association, Washington, DC (2000), which indicates that the individual has a serious, long term mental illness that is not based on symptoms primarily caused by: (a) developmental disorders usually first diagnosed in infancy, childhood or adolescence, such as mental retardation or pervasive developmental disorders; or (b) cognitive disorders, including delirium, dementia or amnesia; or (c) mental disorders due to general medical condition not elsewhere classified; or (d) substance-related disorders.

Service Area: A group of cities and towns in Massachusetts where we accept Members for enrollment in our ACO Plan. Each ACO Plan has its own Service Area. You must live in your ACO Plan's Service Area.

Significant BH Needs: Substance use disorder, SED, SPMI and other BH conditions as specified by EOHHS.

Social Service Organization: A community-based organization that provides services or goods in the area of Health Related Social Needs.

Special Health Care Needs including but not limited to:

- complex or chronic medical needs requiring specialized health care services, including persons with multiple chronic conditions, co-morbidities, and/or co-existing functional impairments, and including persons with physical, mental/substance use, and/or developmental disabilities, such as persons with cognitive, intellectual, mobility, psychiatric, and/or sensory disabilities described below:
    - Cognitive Disability – a condition that leads to disturbances in brain functions, such as memory, orientation, awareness, perception, reasoning, and judgment. Many conditions can cause cognitive disabilities, including but not limited to Alzheimer's disease, bipolar disorder, Parkinson disease,

traumatic injury, stroke, depression, alcoholism, and chronic fatigue syndrome.

- Intellectual Disability – is a disability characterized by significant limitations both in intellectual functioning and in adaptive behavior that affect many everyday social and practical skills.
- Mobility Disability - an impairment or condition that limits or makes difficult the major life activity of moving a person's body or a portion of his or her body. "Mobility disability" includes, but is not limited to, orthopedic and neuro-motor disabilities and any other impairment or condition that limits an individual's ability to walk, maneuver around objects, ascend or descend steps or slopes, and/or operate controls. An individual with a mobility disability may use a wheelchair or other assistive device for mobility or may be semi-ambulatory.
- Psychiatric Disability – a mental disorder that is a health condition characterized by alterations in thinking, mood, or behavior (or some combination thereof) associated with distress and/or impaired functioning. Examples include, but are not limited to, depression, bipolar disorder, anxiety disorder, schizophrenia, and addiction.
- Sensory Disability - any condition that substantially affects hearing, speech, or vision.

- children/adolescents who have, or are at increased risk for, chronic physical, developmental, behavioral, or emotional conditions and who also require health and related services of a type and amount beyond that required by children generally;
- high risk for admission/readmission to a 24-hour level of care within the next six months;

- high risk of institutionalization;
- diagnosed with a Serious Emotional Disturbance, a Serious and Persistent Mental Illness, or a substance use disorder, or otherwise have significant BH needs;
- Chronically Homeless;
- high risk of inpatient admission or Emergency Department visits, including certain Enrollees transitioning care across acute hospital, chronic disease and rehabilitation hospital or nursing facility setting; or
- Receive care from other state agency programs, including but not limited to programs through Department of Mental Health (DMH), Department of Developmental Services (DDS), Department of Children and Families (DCF), and Department of Youth Services (DYS).

Specialist: A doctor who provides health care for a specific disease or part of the body.

Examples include: cardiologists (heart doctors) and obstetricians (for pregnant individuals).

Standard Internal Appeal: An Internal Appeal that is decided by us within a standard timeframe. (An Expedited (fast) Internal Appeal is a faster process.)

Transitional Care Management: The evaluation of a Member's medical care needs and coordination of any other support services in order to arrange for safe and appropriate care after discharge from one level of care to another level of care, including referral to appropriate services.

Urgent Care: Care required quickly to prevent a worsening of health due to symptoms that a reasonable person would believe are not an Emergency but require prompt medical attention. Urgent Care does not include preventive, elective, or Routine Care.

WellSense ("We" or "Us"): A Massachusetts non-profit Medicaid managed care organization. We offer ACO Plans. Our official name is Boston Medical Center Health Plan, Inc. In this Handbook, WellSense is also called "we" or "us."