

MassHealth Payments for Hospitals Providing Substance Use Disorder Services

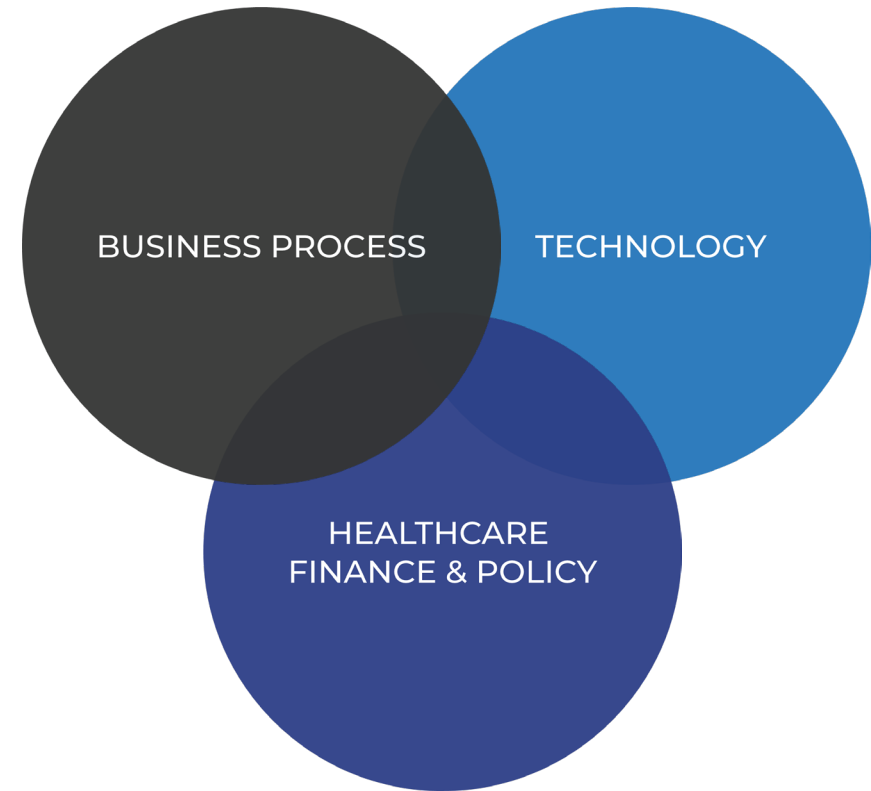


Current as of January 2025

About Aligned Solutions

Creating a Financially Sustainable Healthcare System

Aligned Solutions brings expertise in Massachusetts state government, healthcare finance and policy, and behavioral health together with innovative data and technology solutions. We work with providers and policymakers to tackle complex challenges. From identifying new revenue opportunities to implementing technology that simplifies workflows and reduces costs, we deliver practical solutions that create lasting impact.



MassHealth SUD Payment Policies

MassHealth has established several policies that allow hospitals to bill for certain services provided to patients with substance use disorders (SUD) in emergency departments (EDs) and inpatient units.

Hospitals can improve financial sustainability of substance use disorder services by implementing charging and billing processes in accordance with all applicable requirements.

Current MassHealth Payment Policies for Hospital SUD

- Crisis Evaluation and Management Services
- Recovery Support Navigator Services
- Peer Recovery Support Services
- Initiation of Medications for Opioid Use Disorder (MOUD) in the ED
- Emergency Department-Dispensed Nasal Naloxone Packages

Behavioral Health Crisis Evaluation and Management Services



Overview:

- Hospitals can bill MassHealth for crisis evaluation & management services for patients with a primary or co-occurring SUD in the ED or Med/Surg.
- These services provide assessment, intervention, disposition coordination, reporting, and community collaboration.
- There are two categories:
 - Crisis Evaluation: Initial assessment, intervention, and disposition coordination.
 - Crisis Management: Ongoing intervention, disposition coordination, and reporting.



Who Can Provide this Service?

- A qualified behavioral health professional and complex behavioral health care clinician.
- Additional staff may include certified peer specialists & Recovery Coaches with appropriate training.
- Addiction Consult Services may qualify if they meet these standards.

Behavioral Health Crisis Evaluation and Management: Billing Overview



Billing Rates & Structure:

Crisis Service	Code	Modifier	Rate	Billing Frequency
Crisis Evaluation	S9485		\$695.29	One Time
Crisis Management V1	S9485	V1	\$325.64	Daily
Crisis Management V2	S9485	V2	\$653.64	Daily



Billing Criteria:

- Hospitals may bill once per day per member.
- Crisis Evaluation and Crisis Management cannot be billed on the same day for the same patient.
- These are facility/technical charges covering additional hospital resources; standard professional billing remains unaffected.
- Required service components must be provided and documented in order to bill.

Recovery Support Navigator Services



Overview:

- Navigators provide support for patients with substance use disorders (SUD) admitted to the ED or hospital
- Services can be face-to-face, virtual, or on behalf of patient (e.g., bedfinding, contacting collaterals)
- Program aims to help patients transition to outpatient, or other appropriate, care
- Improves access to SUD care for patients and supports evidence-based approaches to addiction treatment



Who Can Provide this Service?

- Trained paraprofessionals skilled in addiction support and evidence-based techniques like motivational interviewing
- Many types of staff can be considered RSNs for the purpose of billing, provided they meet MassHealth's criteria

Recovery Support Navigator Services: Billing Overview



Billing Rates & Structure:

- \$17.09* per 15 minutes
- Billing code and modifier: H2015-HF
- No daily limit on billable time
- Services can include time spent with or on behalf of the patient



Billing Criteria:

- RSN must provide help to patients with access and navigation of SUD treatment systems
- RSN must provide care coordination, case management and motivational support
- Many role groups can qualify as Recovery Support Navigators and bill this code

***Note: Rates are subject to change. Refer to [101 CMR 444](#) for up-to-date rates**

Peer Recovery Support Coach Services



Overview:

- Coaches provide support, motivation, and connection for patients with substance use disorders
- Focus is on building ongoing relationships with patients as they transition to the community



Who Can Provide this Service?

From [Managed Care Bulletin 82](#):

- Recovery Coach must have obtained or must demonstrate that they are working to obtain credentialing as a Certified Addiction Recovery Coach (CARC)
 - To be considered as working toward credentialing as a CARC, a Peer Recovery Coach must have completed Peer Recovery Coach Academy trainings and the Ethical Considerations for Recovery Coaches training and
 - must be in the process of completing supervision requirements and additional required trainings.

Note: The recent enactment of "An Act Relative to Treatments and Coverage for Substance Use Disorder and Recovery Coach Licensure" may impact these requirements

Peer Recovery Coach Services: Billing Overview



Billing Rates & Structure:

- Hospitals can bill MassHealth \$19.10* per day for Recovery Coaches actively helping patients
- H2016-HM is the billing code and modifier
 - **Billing Through Managed Care Plans:**
 - Managed Care plans (like ACOs, MCOs, One Care, and PACE) can contract with any qualified provider, **including hospitals**, to offer Recovery Coach services
 - Providers must meet all requirements for Recovery Coaches to qualify, including **appropriate supervision and support structures** for Recovery Coaches
 - **Billing Through Fee-for-Service:**
 - Hospitals cannot directly contract with MassHealth Fee-for-Service for Recovery Coaches
 - However, they can bill for Recovery Coaches employed by eligible outpatient programs, including those working on Addiction Consult Teams who assist in ED and in-patient settings



Billing Criteria:

- Billing can occur if a patient is contacted within the last 21 days, and they respond (via in-person, phone, text, email, or video)
- Recorded documentation that gives a brief description of the contact, including an overview of the goals and outcomes, must be available

***Note: Rates are subject to change. Refer to [101 CMR 346](#) for up-to-date rates**

Initiation of Medications for Opioid Use Disorder (MOUD) in Emergency Departments



Overview:

- Hospitals can bill MassHealth for initiation of MOUD in the ED when patients show signs of opioid addiction while seeking care for other medical or behavioral needs



Who Can Provide this Service?

- Services can be provided by healthcare practitioners authorized to prescribe certain medications (Schedule III) or qualified under specific billing codes (G2213)



Billing Rates & Structure:

- Non-Facility Fee: \$52.90*
- Facility Fee: \$49.41*
- G2213 is the procedure code

***Note: Rates are subject to change. Refer to MassHealth RFA for up-to-date rates**

Emergency Department-Dispensed Nasal Naloxone Packages



Overview:

- Hospitals can bill MassHealth for nasal naloxone packages given to patients with opioid use upon discharge
- Each package includes two nasal spray inhalers (4 mg each)



Billing Rates & Structure:

- Hospitals can bill MassHealth \$125* per nasal naloxone package
- This is billed as a hospital charge, not as a professional or pharmacy fee
- It does **not** cover naloxone administered in the ED or prescribed for the patient to pick up at a pharmacy



Billing Criteria:

- Payment applies only when the package is provided directly to the patient upon leaving the hospital

***Note: Rates are subject to change. Refer to MassHealth RFA for up-to-date rates**

Disclaimer

The policy descriptions included in this document are intended for educational purposes only and nothing contained herein should be construed to constitute legal advice or professional advice. For full details of MassHealth's requirements, please refer directly to MassHealth's actual regulatory and policy documents which are included in the "Sources" section of the document. All information is provided in good faith, however Aligned Solutions makes no representation or warranty of any kind, express or implied, regarding the accuracy, adequacy, validity, reliability, availability or completeness of any information contained here. Rates of payment included in the document are current as of the time of publication. MassHealth's rates of payment are subject to change. Please refer directly to MassHealth's policy document for up to date rates of payment for services.

Sources

- Commonwealth of Massachusetts Executive Office of Health and Human Services, Office of Medicaid. (2024). *Rate Year 2025 Acute Hospital Request for Applications*.

[LINK TO SOURCE](#)

- Commonwealth of Massachusetts Executive Office of Health and Human Services, Office of Medicaid. (2022). *Managed Care Entity Bulletin 82*. MassHealth.

[LINK TO SOURCE](#)

- Commonwealth of Massachusetts Executive Office of Health and Human Services. (2024). *101 CMR 346.00: Rates for Certain Substance-Related and Addictive Disorders Programs*.

[LINK TO SOURCE](#)

- Commonwealth of Massachusetts Executive Office of Health and Human Services. (2023). *101 CMR 444: Rates for Certain Substance Use Disorder Services*

[LINK TO SOURCE](#)

Questions and Follow-Up

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