

Commonwealth of Massachusetts MassHealth Provider Manual Series – Community Health Center Manual

Subchapter Number and Title 4. Program Regulations (130 CMR 405.000)

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Transmittal Letter CHC-99

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405.474: Acupuncture Services

(A) Introduction. MassHealth members are eligible to receive acupuncture services in CHCs for the treatment of pain as described in 130 CMR 405.474(C). Please see 130 CMR 433.454(C): *Acupuncture as an Anesthetic* for use of acupuncture as an anesthetic, and 130 CMR 418.406(C): *Substance Abuse Outpatient Counseling Programs* for use of acupuncture for detoxification.

(B) General. 130 CMR 405.474 applies specifically to physicians and other licensed practitioners of acupuncture in a CHC. In general however, subject to the limitations of state law, the requirements elsewhere in 130 CMR 405.000 that apply to a CHC, also apply to licensed practitioners of acupuncture, such as service limitations, recordkeeping, report requirements, and prior-authorization requirements.

(C) Acupuncture for the Treatment of Pain. MassHealth provides a total of 20 sessions of acupuncture for the treatment of pain per member per year without prior authorization. If the member's condition, treatment, or diagnosis changes, the member may be able to receive more sessions of medically-necessary acupuncture treatment with prior authorization.

(D) Provider Qualifications for Acupuncture.

(1) Qualified Providers.

(a) Physicians

(b) Other providers who are licensed in acupuncture by the Massachusetts Board of Registration in Medicine under 243 CMR 5.00: *The Practice of Acupuncture*.

(2) Acupuncture Providers in CHCs. CHCs must ensure that acupuncture providers for whom the CHC will submit claims possess the appropriate training, credentials, and licensure.

(E) Conditions of Payment. The MassHealth agency pays the CHC for services of an acupuncturist (in accordance with 130 CMR 405.474(F)) when the:

(1) services are limited to the scope of practice authorized by state law or regulation (including but not limited to 243 CMR 5.00: *The Practice of Acupuncture*);

(2) the acupuncturist has a current license or certificate of registration from the Massachusetts Board of Registration in Medicine; and

(3) services are provided pursuant to a supervisory arrangement with a physician.

(F) Acupuncture Claims Submissions.

(1) Community health centers (CHCs) may submit claims for acupuncture services when they are provided to MassHealth members by physicians or when a licensed provider under the supervision of a physician provides those services directly to MassHealth

members. See Subchapter 6 of the Community Health Center Manual for service code descriptions and billing requirements.

(2) For MassHealth members receiving services under any of the acupuncture codes on the same date of service as an office visit, the CHC may bill for either an office visit or the acupuncture code, but may not bill for both an office visit and the acupuncture code for the same member on the same date when the office visit and the acupuncture services are performed in the same location. This limitation does not apply to a significant, separately identifiable office visit provided by the same CHC on the same day of the acupuncture service.