Provider Updates

Weekly Updates as of October 9, 2025



Weekly Touchpoints

 In lieu of the weekly Virtual Office Hours forum, we'll share these slides to help explain the update from the weekly Provider Updates emails

Typical Weekly Communication Schedule:

- Monday: Weekly Provider Updates email sent to email list
- Thursday: Weekly Provider Updates slides posted

Weekly email and slides are available at: <u>Providers News and Updates</u>

Important TPA Update

- As communicated previously, MassHealth's Dental TPA will be transitioning back to the prior administrator in early 2026.
- BeneCare will continue to provide services as our Dental TPA through the transition period. MassHealth is committed to correctly processing all claims and service authorizations and will be working hard with BeneCare and providers to resolve any issues over the next few months.
- Moving forward, MassHealth will communicate directly with dental providers to issue additional information regarding the Dental TPA transition, including more details about timing. To stay informed, please:
 - Bookmark our new <u>Dental TPA Transition webpage</u>. MassHealth will update this page regularly.
 - Sign up for future emails about the transition by completing this <u>request form</u>.

TPA Update continued

- Please continue submitting claims, prior authorization requests, and all other routine operational tasks through BeneCare until further instructions are provided regarding the transition.
- This transition will not affect your status as a MassHealth provider or your MassHealth provider contract. MassHealth's current rates and coverage for dental services will also not be affected by the Dental TPA transition.
- Thank you for your dedication to providing excellent care to our members. We truly appreciate your continued participation and partnership as we work to transition our dental program.

Timely Reminders

- Holiday impacts and schedule changes for next week:
 - Monday, October 13 Massachusetts state holiday, however BeneCare offices will remain open
 - Tuesday, October 14 Claims payment (Run 100855) and weekly email update will be issued (1 day later than usual)
 - Wednesday, October 15 Approved interim payment advances issued (also 1 day later than usual)
- An updated Office Reference Manual (ORM) is now available.
 - Please refer to the ORM Update Summary and updated ORM by clicking the links below:
 - Summary of ORM Updates
 - massdhp.org/orm

Optional Recoupment Pause Extended

 MassHealth is extending the optional recoupment pause of interim payment advances through the claims payments made on January 5, 2026 (Run 100867) (**If you haven't already, you must OPT IN**)

What it means:

- Submit a pause request → no interim payment advance recoupments after request is processed through 1/5/2026 (Run 100867)
- No action → recoupments continue to apply to your claims payments until the outstanding advance amount has been fully recouped

How to request:

Complete online form by 12:00 PM (noon) Friday → pause will be effective about 1-2 payment cycles after approval and will remain in effect through 1/5/2026 (Run 100867)

Requests received after this deadline will be applied to the next claims payment cycle

If a pause request has already been submitted, no further action is required. Approved pause requests will remain in effect through January 5, 2026 (Run 100867), and do not require weekly resubmission. Duplicate or incomplete requests will not be processed.

For more recoupment info, please see the Recoupment Job Aid available on the **Dental Provider Toolkit** page

Discussion Topics

- MassHealth to indefinitely delay implementation of prepayment claim review
- MassHealth further extending the timely filing limit
- Adjudication Remediation Plan Update
- Claims Processing and Payment Updates
- VendorWeb Updates
- Portal Updates
- Prior Authorization Update
- Claim Review Reminder
- Appendix:
 - Tools, Resources and Reminders
 - Contact Information

Implementation of Prepayment Claim Review Delayed

- As announced on Monday, September 15, MassHealth is indefinitely delaying implementation of prepayment claim review
 - Prepayment claim review requirements remain effective for: members 21 years or older when more than one crown is delivered on the same date of service, for dates of service on or after 04/01/2025.
 - Additional prepayment claim review requirements will not go into effect for the indefinite future.
- The ORM has been updated with this new guidance and can be found here: massdhp.org/orm

Further Timely Filing Extension

- In response to provider concerns about continued claims processing delays, MassHealth has further extended the timely filing limit to 345 days – through March 31, 2026
 - Earlier this year, MassHealth provided an interim extension from 90 days to 180 days through 12/31/2025
 - On September 15th, MassHealth further extended the timely filing limit to 345 days through 3/31/2026
- This extension has been updated in the ORM and can be found here: massdhp.org/orm

Please note that our claims system was recently updated to reflect the extended timely filing limit.

As of 9/26/2025, claims are now processing with the updated 345-day timely filing limit through 3/31/2026.

Any incorrect timely filing denials prior to this update will be part of the system-wide Adjudication Remediation Plan.

Proof of Eligibility Reminder

- The eligibility fix and following system-wide reprocessing is expected to remediate most incorrect denials.
 - Please do not submit reconsideration or resubmit claims due to incorrect eligibility at this time.
- After system-wide reprocessing, we will assist with any specific claim denials that still need to be corrected.
- Remember to check eligibility on the actual DOS and retain proof of eligibility
 - The member Eligibility Report or Treatment History Report can be saved as proof that eligibility was verified on the date the report was run (i.e. replacing previously required screenshots)

MassHealth Dental program policy is to honor eligibility status as it appears at the time of verification on the date of service.

If a claim is denied due to eligibility, you can submit a reconsideration request with proof of eligibility and we will honor the eligibility status as it appeared when eligibility was verified on the date of service.

Adjudication Remediation

- Claims reprocessing will follow our Adjudication Remediation Plan
- We have begun testing the plan's logic and coding elements to ensure all issues are fully addressed before implementation. Testing is extensive and will continue.
- At a high-level, the Adjudication Remediation Plan includes:
 - Reprocessing of claims that had been previously denied based on eligibility inaccuracies
 - Reprocessing claims that have been denied incorrectly as duplicates
 - Reprocessing claims with CDT codes that had been misconfigured within the BeneCare system
 - Reprocessing claims that had been incorrectly adjudicated due to a combination of processing errors (i.e., eligibility + treatment history)
 - Void and resubmission of claims that were paid using incorrect reimbursement amounts.

We will share the reprocessing timeline as soon as possible once testing is completed and timing expectations are finalized.

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Known Claims Processing Issues

- As a result of prior eligibility challenges, we still cannot process HSN and COB / TPL claims.
 - These claims are part of the retrospective reprocessing plan and will be addressed with Adjudication Remediation.
- Codes that are currently under investigation: D0140, D0190 (PHDH only), D0220,
 D0230, D0330 (OS frequency limit exception), D1110, D1351, D1510, D3120, D7310,
 D7472 (OS only), D8660, D8670, D9110, D9310, D9450 (rural and CHC only)
 - D0120, D8999 configuration has been fixed going forward
 - For claim questions and inquiries, please reach out to <u>ProviderRequests@massdhp.com</u>
- Additional information on the Adjudication Remediation Plan will be shared in coming weeks.

No resubmissions are needed at this time. We will notify you if needed in the future.

Claims Processing and Payment

- This week's 10/6 (Run 100854) and next week's 10/14 (Run 100855) payments:
 - Include a week of recently submitted claims.
 - Please note that Run 100852 is the first claims payment processed with updated eligibility data.
 - We are actively investigating <u>an issue with claims submitted through the</u>
 <u>provider portal</u> that is causing incorrect eligibility denials. We began contacting impacted providers last week and will continue to reach out directly.
- Recoupments continue to apply, except for providers who requested a pause. For more information on recoupments, please see slide 6

Please do not resubmit incorrectly processed claims until the system issues are fixed, as they will continue to pay incorrectly. No resubmission are needed at this time. We will notify you if needed in the future.

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DentalXChange (DXC) and Vyne

- There was an issue with DentalXChange (DXC) and Vyne submissions with electronic attachments
- DXC and Vyne submissions with electronic attachments are now being received and processed correctly.
- The DXC backlog is complete
- NEW: Vyne PA request backlog is also complete
- Some PA requests from April and May that were not submitted through DXC or Vyne have not been processed. We're actively working on a solution and will share next steps soon, including any provider action if needed.
- **Please do not resubmit incorrectly processed claims until the system issues are fixed, as they will continue to pay incorrectly. No resubmission are needed at this time. We will notify you if needed in the future.**

Outstanding PAs

- As a reminder, standard PA request turnaround times are:
 - An average of no more than 5 business days, and
 - No more than 21 calendar days for any individual request
- If you have a pending PA request that is older than 21 days old, please email <u>ProviderRequests@massdhp.com</u> with "PA" in the subject line and request a secure email connection.
- If you have not received your PA decisions in the mail, please email <u>ProviderRequests@massdhp.com</u> with "LETTER REQUEST" in the subject line and provide the PA # and practice mailing address. We will resend the PA letter by mail.

Reminder: Only send patient information through secure email.

To send patient information, please request a secure email connections from our Provider Requests team. You can send information through the secure email connection <u>once sent by Provider Requests</u>.

Claims Outreach **New Form**

- If you are receiving <u>low or no claims payment</u> and we are not already working with you to make sure that your claims are received and processed
- Please reach out to us directly or fill out this form so that we can assist you.





Remittances

- MassHealth remittance advice (remit) continues as a <u>temporary workaround until BeneCare</u> can provide the <u>remits</u>.
 - MassHealth continues to mail remits on a weekly basis
 - As a reminder, MassHealth has separate EOB reason codes from BeneCare. Refer to the <u>crosswalk provided</u>.
 - **To request a missing remit**, please email ProviderRequests@massdhp.com with "REMIT REQUEST" in the subject line, and include your tax ID or NPI, name of office, and address along with the run number of the missing remit or date needed.

Reminder on MassHealth remit limitations: No quadrant information; Claims with more than one DOS will incorrectly show all services with the same DOS (BeneCare has the correct information about the multiple DOS and has processed the claims as such). BeneCare has separate EOB reason codes from the EOB reason codes listed on the MassHealth remit. MassHealth and BeneCare EOB code crosswalk: bit.ly/EOBcrosswalk.

Please **check the portal** or **call 844-MH-DENTL (844-643-3685)** for questions about the claims status or for additional procedure detail on the MassHealth remit.

VendorWeb Update

- VendorWeb reports that payment information has now been restored.
- You should now be able to see all payment information, including future and past, except for 7/31/2025 and 8/18/2025
- If you need payment information for 7/31 or 8/18, please email the CTR Solution Desk at comptroller.info@mass.gov or call 617-979-2468 contact 844-MH-DENTL (844) 643-3685



Note: VendorWeb is the State's portal for providers to view scheduled payments and payment history.

For reminder information about logging into VendorWeb, please see log-in reminders in the Appendix.

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Interim Payment Advance Reminder

 If your cash flow continues to be significantly impacted by claims processing issues, you have the option to request an interim payment advance using the online form.



forms.office.com/g/mya0tHDdbp

10/9 Upcoming holiday schedule change: Approved interim payment advances will be issued on Wednesday, 10/15 instead of Tuesday, 10/14 due to next week's holiday.

- Submit the form each week that a payment advance is needed
- Submit by Wednesday night at 11:59PM to receive the payment advance the following Tuesday* (4 business days later)
- Forms received after the deadline will receive the advance the second following Tuesday (9 business days later)
- Requests must be received through the online form. Email requests will not be processed.

Interim payment advances will not be processed for offices with payments already estimated to be close to your historical average.

For more details about the recoupment process, please review the **Recoupment Job Aid** available in the <u>Dental Provider Toolkit</u> at <u>massdhp.org/dental-providers/dental-provider-toolkit</u>

Portal Update

- The successful eligibility data upload is a pivotal first step in providing you with reliable,
 accurate eligibility data
 - Member eligibility should be much more accurate and reliable, for <u>verifying member</u>
 <u>coverage</u>, <u>claims processing</u>, and <u>fixing past claim denials due to incorrect eligibility</u>.
- **CMSP Accumulator issue:** We are aware of an issue affecting both the portal display of the CMSP \$750 SFY remaining balance and claims processing. Our team is actively working to resolve this issue and a fix is being tested.
 - For CMSP Accumulator / remaining balance information, please call 844-MH-DENTL (844) 643-3685.
- BeneCare has enabled key updates that have restored claim status functionality and improved timely processing

The next expected portal update: member eligibility search by name

Portal Update cont.

- Despite the eligibility refresh, a portal error is still preventing some claims and/or PA requests from being submitted.
 - Even though the member is eligible, an error message "Invalid Member ID or Date of Birth" displays on the Claim/PA upload screen followed by the words "Please try again."
 - This error is due to a misalignment between member eligibility and claims processing.

If you cannot submit a claim or PA request in the portal due to this error, please:

- 1. FAX to: 833-627-7347, or
- 2. Submit to EDI, or
- 3. Mail to: MassHealth Dental Program Claims c/o BeneCare Dental Plans P.O. Box 631 Worcester, MA 01613
- 4. Please do <u>NOT</u> email claims or PA requests directly to BeneCare.

If you are unable to FAX, submit to EDI, or mail, please request a secure email connection by emailing ProviderRequests@massdhp.com

- Quadrant detail may not display properly and is currently under investigation.
 - Quadrant detail entry will be reviewed on the next slides

NEW Website Feature

- In an effort to make important news and information readily available at your fingertips, we have saved the recent Provider Update emails as pdfs
- When you visit the <u>Provider News and Updates</u> page, you can <u>click on the image</u> to pull up which ever week's email you are looking for:











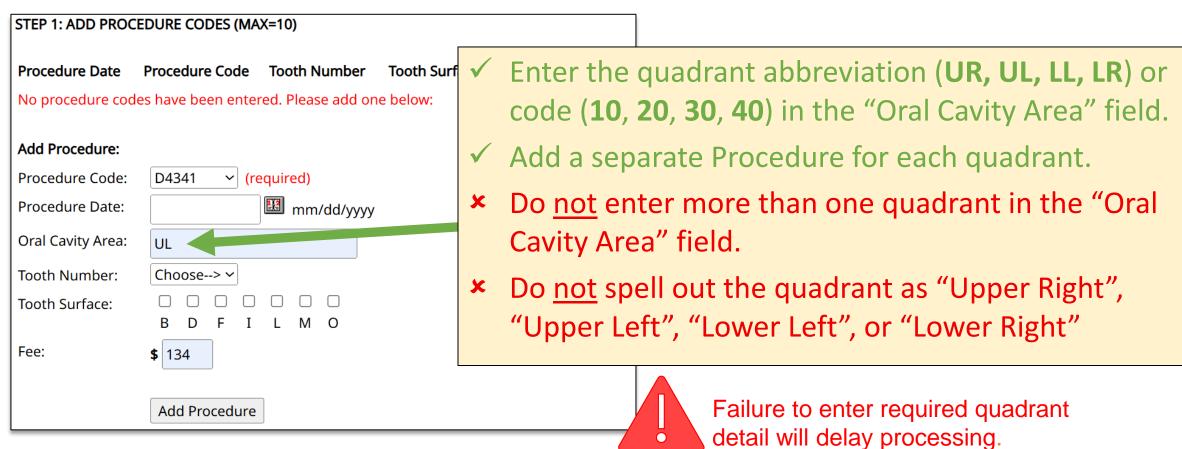




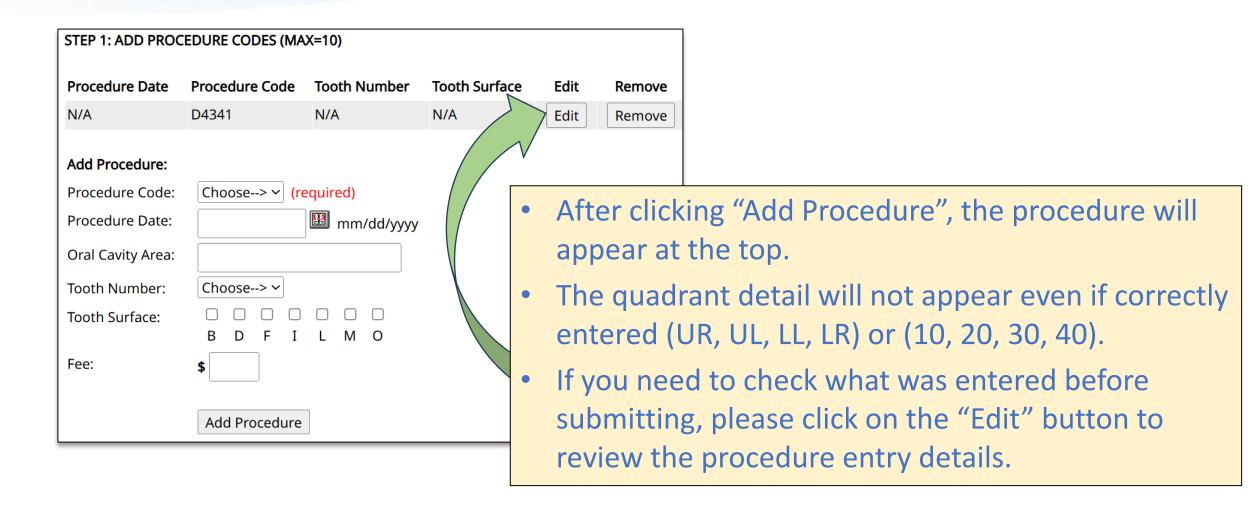


Portal: Quadrant Detail Entry

Quadrant details are required for claims or PA requests for quadrant-specific codes such as deep cleanings (D4341/D4342)



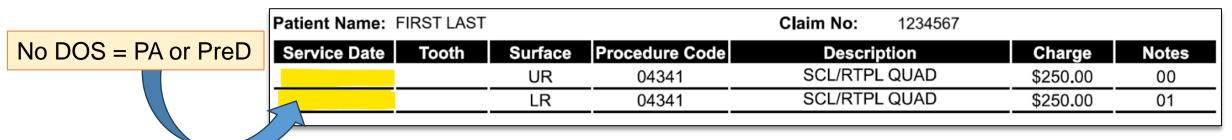
Portal: Quadrant Detail Entry (cont.)



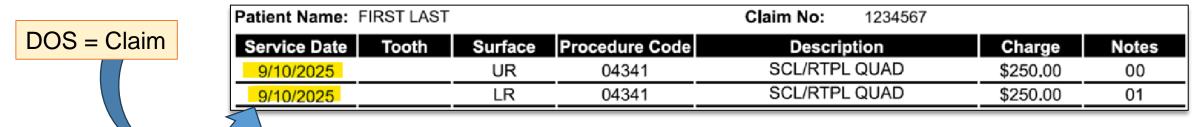
massdhp.org

Prior Authorization Update

- Service authorization decisions are available on the portal under "Claims Status" and continue to be mailed out.
- Please Note important distinctions between determination letters:
 - PA letters will not show service dates next to service line detail.



 Claim, or EOB letters will show service dates in the first column of each claim line in detail on the back of the letter. Claims letters are followed by remit letters which are currently being sent by MassHealth



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Submission Instructions

To expedite service authorization request processing:

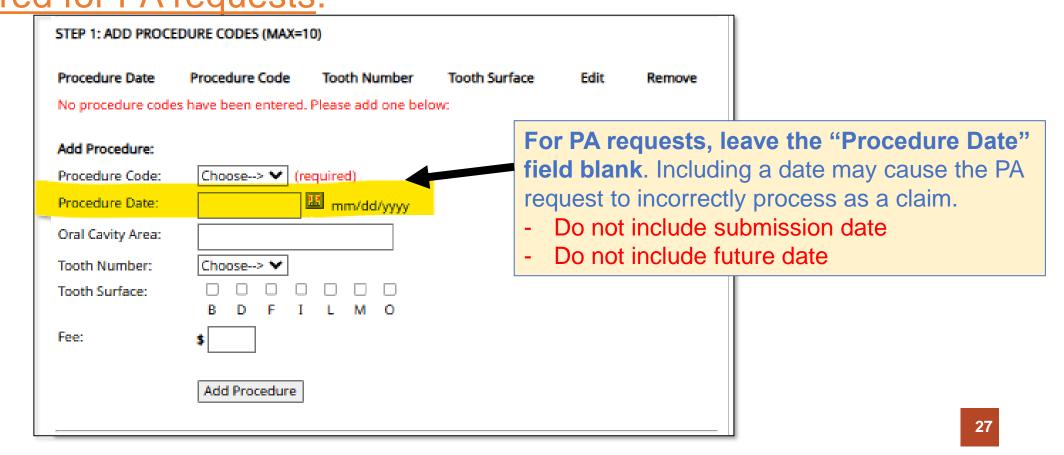
- Do not include future dates of service when submitting any claims or service authorization requests.
- Submit claims (dated) and service authorization requests (undated) separately. When claims and service authorization requests are submitted together under one submission, this requires additional administrative steps and creates processing conflicts which may delay processing times.

Please ensure your billing teams and vendors are aware of this distinction. Submitting claims and prior authorizations separately will help expedite processing and prevent unnecessary disruptions in care or reimbursement.

 Do not include dates of service for authorization requests on any procedure other than D8660 for orthodontic prior authorization requests.

Portal PA Request Submission

• When submitting <u>PA requests</u> in the portal, the "Procedure Date" field must be left blank. Please make sure that <u>no date is</u> entered for PA requests.



Orthodontic PA Requests & Claim Payment

- Orthodontic cases <u>require prior authorization</u>. Dentists are to submit the required documentation for review for comprehensive treatment.
- Claims <u>must include a date of service</u>. These claims cannot be submitted until the service has been rendered.
- Orthodontic claims will not be reviewed or paid for future dates of service.

For more information on orthodontic submissions, please refer to the ORM or review the Ortho Job Aid



To find this resource and more, please visit: massdhp.org/dental-provider-toolkit/

Customer Service

- On average, calls are currently being answered in 10-15 minutes.
- While call volume remains higher than anticipated, we're actively working to reduce wait times by fully staffing our team and expanding cross-training to improve responsiveness.
 We will continue to work on improving call wait times through staffing improvements.
- Providers can also continue to call MassHealth's customer service line at 800-841-2900 if member eligibility information is still needed.
 - Note: MassHealth customer service <u>can only answer questions about</u> <u>member eligibility</u>, not claims, prior authorization requests, or other items.
 Please continue to call BeneCare's customer service center for this information.



Call the MassHealth Dental Customer Service at **844-MH-DENTL** (844) 643-3685.

Historic DentaQuest Portal

The previous DentaQuest provider portal can be accessed through this direct link:

provider.masshealth-dental.net

As a reminder:

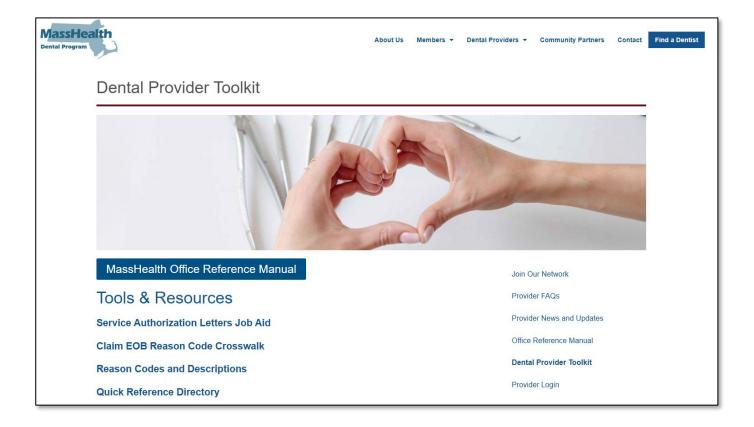
- Historical information (such as remittance advice and inquiries) will not transfer to the new portal
- The DentaQuest portal is still available for read-only access
- We encourage you to download any necessary information as soon as possible

Appendix

Dental Provider Toolkit

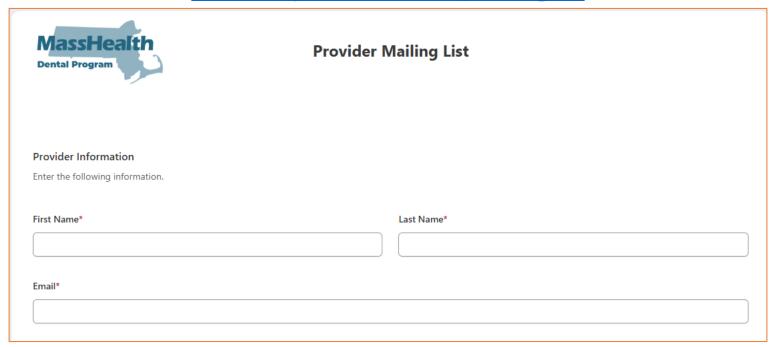
Tools and Resources can be found on the MassHealth Dental program website: <u>massdhp.org/dental-providers/dental-provider-</u>

toolkit



Provider Email List Sign-up Link

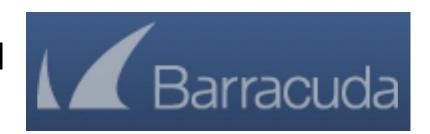
survey.massdhp.org/1



Sign up for the email list to receive the latest updates. You can add as many emails as you would like.

Don't Miss Our Secure Emails

 We use a HIPAA-compliant secure email platform called Barracuda

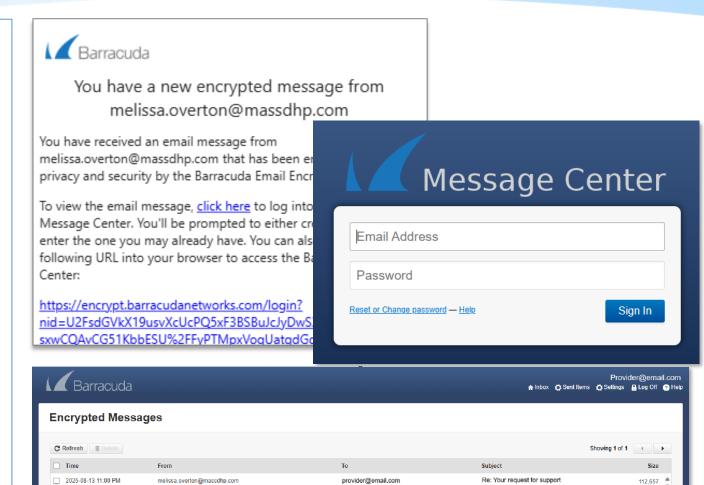


To avoid missing important messages, please:

- ✓ check your Spam or Junk folders and
- ✓ add Barracuda (@barracuda.com) to your safe senders list

Barracuda Email Overview

- Look for notifications from noreply@barracuda.com in your inbox.
- 2. Check your Spam/Junk folders if you don't see the email in your inbox.
- 3. Open the notification email to access your secure message.
- Click the provided link to open the Barracuda Message Center.
- 5. Log in using your Barracuda password, or create a new password if it's your first time.
- Once logged in, view, reply to, or download your secure message.

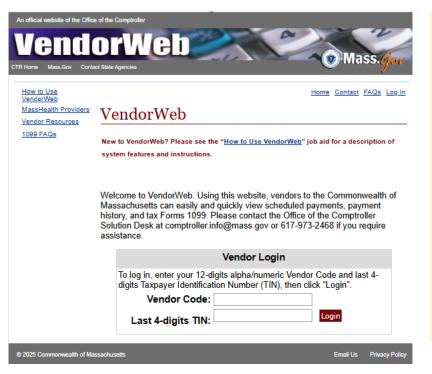


Note: Barracuda secure messages expire in 30 days. Be sure to download and store a copy securely if needed.

VendorWeb

Providers can view scheduled payments and payment history

massfinance.state.ma.us/VendorWeb/



- To log onto VendorWeb, you will need your
 Vendor Code and the last 4 digits of your Tax ID.
- If you need to get your Vendor Code, please call 844-MH-DENTL (844-643-3685).
- If you know your MassHealth Provider ID/Service Location (PIDSL or Payee ID), you can call 800-841-2900 to get your Vendor Code.

*Your "Payee ID" or "PAYEE NUMBER" can be found at the top of your remits. It is 9 numbers and a letter: ex. 123456789 A

Prepayment Claim Review

- This is a new process to ensure claims align with MassHealth regulations <u>before</u> payment is made.
- This review includes but is not limited to:
 - member eligibility determination;
 - provider eligibility determination;
 - benefit coverage determination and/or coordination of benefit;
 - determination that the service is medically necessary and meets the applicable standards of care and is not duplicative of another service.
- When clinical review is needed for prepayment claim review,
 documentation must be submitted with the claim.

Prepayment Claim Review (cont.)

- Prepayment claim review is conducted in accordance with the MassHealth rules and regulations, including but not limited to 130 CMR 450.000: Administrative and Billing Regulations
- MassHealth regulations, including but not limited to 130 CMR 450.205(A) and 130 CMR 450.204(B) require providers to:
 - keep documentation that substantiates the provision and medical necessity of services
 - provide such documentation to MassHealth upon request
- MassHealth services are not payable without such documentation, and prepayment claim review is a MassHealth request for such documentation

Prepayment Claim Review (cont.)

Previous Requirements

- maintain documentation
- submit documentation when requested

New Requirements - maintain <u>and</u> submit documentation for all claims that are subject to prepayment claim review (i.e. documentation is requested for services subject to clinical claim review)

Claim review is <u>not</u> prior authorization. PA requirements remain the same.

Prepayment Claim Review (cont.)

Providers can submit documentation before OR after providing a service:

Before treatment: Request an <u>optional</u> predetermination review to ensure the proposed treatment meets coverage guidelines.

With the claim: Verify compliance with MassHealth regulations, coverage policies, and clinical guidelines before payment.

Optional Predetermination

- Before treatment, providers <u>have the option</u> to submit documentation in advance to check if the proposed treatment is anticipated to meet MassHealth coverage criteria.
- Providers are not required to request predetermination

Prepayment claim review and optional predetermination are <u>not</u> prior authorization requirements. MassHealth **prior authorization** requirements remain the same and have <u>not</u> changed.

Benefits of Claims Review



Lower retrospective recoupment audit risk



Clarity on covered benefits



Improved claims accuracy with effective feedback and support



Consultants are making benefit determinations, not treatment recommendations



Intent is to assist providers in adhering to coverage guidelines



Use pre-determination as a service whenever questions on covered services arise

Refer to the ORM for Details

NOTE: As of 9/15/25, **Prepayment claim review is indefinitely delayed** except for multiple crowns delivered on the same date of service for members 21 years and older *The ORM will be updated to reflect this shortly.*

- Required documentation: ORM Section 6.00
- Clinical criteria: ORM Section 16.00
- Code-by-code coverage and limitations: ORM Exhibit A

The ORM is available at massdhp.org/orm.

The Office Reference Manual (ORM) is a resource designed to assist dental providers and their teams in understanding the MassHealth Dental Program. It provides key information on covered services, claim submission, and other important policies and procedures.

The ORM is regularly updated to reflect changes in policies, procedures, and regulations, so please check back frequently for updates.

Please note: If there is a conflict between the ORM and official MassHealth regulations, the regulations take precedence in every case.

Please refer to the MassHealth website for complete Dental and All Provider Manuals which contain the regulations: www.mass.gov/lists/dental-manual-for-masshealth-providers.

Contact Information

- For MassHealth Dental questions and inquiries, please reach out to MassHealth Dental Customer Service by visiting massdhp.org, calling 844-MH-DENTL (844) 643-3685, or emailing:
 - For General Inquiries, <u>CustomerService@massdhp.com</u>
 - For Claims, Claims Payments, Copies of Remits, Benefits, Eligibility, <u>ProviderRequests@massdhp.com</u>
 - For Contracting, Credentialing, Training,
 Education, <u>ProviderRelations@massdhp.com</u>

Dental Practice Specialists

Our practice specialists are aligned by county as shown below:

Brianna Jones

E: brianna.jones@massdhp.com

P: 774.351.2718

Lower Berkshire County*, Essex County, Hampden County, Hampshire County, and Worcester County

*Towns in Lower Berkshire

<u>County</u>: Alford, Becket, Egremont, Great Barrington, Lee, Lenox, Monterey, Mount Washington, New Marlborough, Otis, Richmond, Sandisfield, Sheffield, Stockbridge, Tyringham, Washington, and West Stockbridge

Nataly Santos

E: nataly.santos@massdhp.com

P: 508.972.0028

Upper Berkshire County*, Franklin County, Middlesex County, and Norfolk County

*Towns in Upper Berkshire

County: Adams, Cheshire, Clarksburg, Dalton, Florida, Hancock, Hinsdale, Lanesborough, New Ashford, North Adams, Peru, Pittsfield, Savoy, Williamstown, and Windsor

Melissa Overton

E: melissa.overton@massdhp.com

P: 774.425.7694

Barnstable County, Bristol County, Dukes County, Nantucket County, Plymouth County, and Suffolk County

