

As part of the Roadmap for Behavioral Health Reform, MassHealth established a Behavioral Health Urgent Care program. Behavioral Health Urgent Care providers must increase timely access to treatment for MassHealth members, including offering same- or next-day appointments and night and weekend hours.

Effective February 1, 2022, MCEs are required to pay no less than the rates set by MassHealth for Urgent Care, which constitutes a 15% increase over the current minimum rates. All MCEs are required to pay no less than the enhanced rates for the specified services provided at any Behavioral Health Urgent Care provider site in the MCEs provider network.

This is an exciting initiative to expand access through and more than 50 ABH member sites are participating to date.

There has been some confusion regarding the rate increase for Behavioral Health Urgent Care providers. To clarify:

Payment and Delivery Structure

- The 15% rate increase should apply to all services in the fee schedule at the Behavioral Health Urgent Care center, not just clinically urgent encounters. This is to allow Urgent Care Centers to meet the urgent care *access standards*. It is not a differentiated “level of care”.
- Providers do **not** need to distinguish the encounters that are clinically urgent from those that are routine in order for the 15% rate increase to apply.

All MassHealth Billing

- BHUC sites should submit claims using the GJ modifier to receive the 15% rate enhancement. The GJ modifier should apply to all eligible services delivered in the urgent care site.
- The 15% enhancement applies on top of any emergency rate add-ons.

MassHealth Fee For Service

- The Mental Health Center rate regulation has a separate fee schedule for the Urgent Care Centers. This can be found [here](#) (101 CMR 306.3 (5) (b)). All codes are listed at the 15% higher rate with a GJ modifier.
- Urgent Care Centers should submit all codes in this [table](#) (101 CMR 306.3 (5) (b)) with the GJ modifier listed in the primary position, followed by any applicable licensure level modifier.
- MMIS will process codes with the GJ modifier at the 15% higher rate.

MassHealth Managed Care Entities

- MassHealth Managed Care Entity Bulletin 76 includes billing guidance and can be found [here](#).
- Eligible services can be found in the MassHealth Managed Care Entity Bulletin 83 [here](#).

Becoming a Behavioral Health Urgent Care

Community Mental Health Center sites that would like to participate in the MassHealth Behavioral Health Urgent Care Program should complete the [Attestation Form](#). ABH strongly encourages members to consider participating. Please direct any questions to the Massachusetts Behavioral Health Partnership dedicated mailbox: [BH Urgent Care Attestation](#).