

MTF Winter 2021 Meeting MassHealth Call Q&A

Q1. Client on MassHealth is living out of state with family due to the pandemic, maintaining MA residence. Has been getting meds filled out of state. Is this ok for an extended period or should it be only 30 days? Is there a time limit on residency if someone is out of state? Or if member splits his time between MA residence and another state (i.e., 6 months in each place). Does he need to change to Medicaid in the other state for time there? Can he suspend MassHealth while gone, then reactivate when back so he doesn't need to apply all over again? What about people who go to Florida or other state for 3 months (i.e., seasonally)?

A1. It is the state that they declare their legal residence (individuals can only have one driver's license, address on taxes, etc.). MassHealth continues to participate in the Public Assistance Reporting Information System (PARIS) process. PARIS is a systematic match, that identifies recipients of public assistance who are receiving benefits in two or more states. If an individual is identified through the PARIS match, they will receive a notice asking them to provide proof of residency.

Members out of state should seek services when needed because of a medical emergency or because the beneficiary's health would be in danger if he or she were required to travel to their home state for treatment. There is no way to "suspend" MassHealth benefits.

Q2. Can you confirm which application an individual should complete if they are a MA resident, age 53, recent approved for federal disability, and is attempting to apply for MassHealth the "medically frail" provision.

A2. If the individual is **not** seeking long term services and support, is under the age of 65, or is a caretaker relative that is over 65, the individual should complete the [Massachusetts Application for Health and Dental Coverage and Help Paying Costs](#) or ACA-3. Individuals who are eligible for MassHealth CarePlus and who:

- have a medical or mental health condition that limits your ability to work or go to school
- have an addiction
- need help with daily activities, like bathing or dressing
- regularly get medical care, personal care, or health services at home or in another community setting, like adult day care or
- are terminally ill.

may ask MassHealth to redetermine their CarePlus benefit as an individual who is "medically frail."

Q3. My 22 yr. old client was filed as a dependent for his parents in 2020, but they do not plan on filing him as a dependent for 2021. His parents do get insurance through their provider. Does this person need to include his parent's information on his ACA? Will they be considered part of his MAGI household?

A5. In this scenario, if the individual is applying and will not be claimed as a tax dependent on someone else's tax return, the individual should only include himself on the [Massachusetts Application for Health and Dental Coverage and Help Paying Costs](#) - ACA-3 application. He can also apply online at MAhealthconnector.org, send a completed and signed paper application by mail or fax, or call MassHealth to complete an application over the phone. If the individual has, or has access to, other insurance, they should complete that section of their application.