



MassHealth Eligibility Policy Update
Pathways for Family Assistance Applicants seeking short-term or long-term care in a facility or
LTSS or PCA services in the community
February 2022

Effective November 1, 2021, MassHealth updated policy guidance to expand coverage for members and applicants who are or would be eligible for Family Assistance. Members or applicants who would be covered by Family Assistance and require a chronic disease and rehabilitation hospital (CDRH) or nursing facility (NF) stay may be eligible for both an expanded short-term stay (up to six months), or long-term care (LTC). Members or applicants may also be able to receive long-term services and supports (LTSS) in the community or services from a Personal Care Attendant (PCA).

This memo addresses the processes by which **new applicants** apply for these benefits.

For more detailed information about the policy, see [***EOM 21-16 Pathway to Short-Term and Long-Term-Care for Family Assistance Members at a Chronic Disease and Rehabilitation Hospital or Nursing Facility.***](#)

If you are a New Applicant

1. **Short-term NF/CDRH Stay** (NF/CDRH stay up to 6 months) based upon clinical determination of need. The following applies if the applicant is already in a NF/CDRH or if the applicant is being discharged from an inpatient setting or being admitted from the community.
 - **Profile:** Applicant only requires short-term intervention and is expected to return to community within 6 months of admission and meets NF level of care or is approved for continued stay in CDRH. This applies if the applicant is being admitted to NF/CDRH from another inpatient setting or being admitted from the community.
 - **Who initiates process:** Applicant, Authorized Representative, or Provider submits application to MassHealth

- **MassHealth application to use:** SACA-2 with Long-Term Care Supplement
- **Clinical Component:**
 - **NF/CDRH** submits SC-1 form;
 - **ASAP** completes a Level of Care (LOC) form; AND Preadmission Screening and Resident Review (PASRR) Level I Screening form and PASRR Level II Evaluation, if applicable;
 - **Applicant** completes a Disability Supplement if under the age of 65 only and not already determined disabled by SSA, MassHealth Disability Evaluation Services (DES), or Commission for the Blind
- **Impact:** Applicant's eligibility will be determined for MassHealth Standard using existing financial/categorical eligibility rules applicable to MassHealth Standard in a long-term care facility

2. Long-term NF/CDRH Stay (more than 6 months) based upon clinical determination of LTC need. This applies if the applicant is already in a NF/CDRH or if the applicant is being discharged from an inpatient setting or being admitted from the community.

- **Profile:** Applicant meets NF level of care or is approved for long-term stay in NF/CDRH and requires long-term care services that cannot be provided in the community
- **Who initiates process:** Applicant, Authorized Representative, or Provider submits application to MassHealth
- **MassHealth application to use:** SACA-2
- **Clinical Component:**
 - **NF/CDRH** completes an SC-1 form;
 - **ASAP** completes a Level of Care (LOC) form; AND Preadmission Screening and Resident Review (PASRR) Level I Screening form submitted by referring entity (NF, hospital, or ASAP), and PASRR Level II Evaluation, if applicable;
 - **Applicant** completes a Disability Supplement if under the age of 65 and not already determined disabled by SSA, MassHealth Disability Evaluation Services (DES), or Commission for the Blind
- **Impact:** Applicant's eligibility will be determined for MassHealth Standard using existing financial/categorical eligibility rules

3. Community LTSS

- **Profile:** Applicant of any age who would be institutionalized if they were not receiving home- and community-based services
- **Who initiates process:** Applicant, Authorized Representative, or Provider submits application to MassHealth
- **MassHealth application to use:**

- Under age 65: ACA-3
- Age 65 and older: SACA-2 with Long-term Care Supplement
- **Clinical Component:**
 - **Applicant contacts ASAP** to complete the Clinical Eligibility Determination for State-Funded Community-Based Long-Term Services and Supports (SF-LTSS-ASAP) form;
 - **Applicant** completes a Disability Supplement if under the age of 65 only and not already determined disabled by SSA, MassHealth Disability Evaluation Services (DES), or Commission for the Blind
- ⊖ **Impact:** Applicant's eligibility will be determined for MassHealth Standard/CommonHealth using existing financial/categorical (e.g. disability) eligibility rules

4. PCA Only

- a. Needs PCA services only and does not require nursing facility level of care
 - **Profile:** Applicant is **under age of 65**
 - **Who initiates process:** Applicant, Authorized Representative, or Provider submits application to MassHealth
 - **MassHealth application to use:** ACA-3
 - **Clinical Component:**
 - **Applicant** completes a Disability Supplement if under the age of 65 only and not already determined disabled by SSA, MassHealth Disability Evaluation Services (DES), or Commission for the Blind
 - **Applicant** completes the Personal Care Attendant Supplement;
 - **Impact:** Applicant's eligibility will be determined for MassHealth Standard using existing financial/categorical eligibility rules
- b. Needs PCA services only and does not require nursing facility level of care
 - **Profile:** Applicant is **age 65 or older**
 - **Who initiates process:** Applicant, Authorized Representative, or Provider submits application to MassHealth
 - **MassHealth application to use:** SACA-2
 - **Clinical Component:**
 - **Applicant** completes a PCA Supplement

- **Impact:** Applicant's eligibility will be determined for MassHealth Standard using existing financial/categorical eligibility rules

Important Note: This policy does not provide an option for community LTSS benefits under the Home and Community Based Waiver program. Individuals can only receive LTSS services as referenced in 130 CMR 450.105 (A) and (E).

Helpful Resources

Need Help?

- Call MassHealth Customer Service at 1-800-841-2900; TTY at (800) 497-4648
Services available Monday-Friday 8 a.m.–5 p.m.
- Online at mass.gov/masshealth

MassHealth Applications and Forms

- [MassHealth ACA-3 Application](#) or apply online at MAhealthconnector.org
- [MassHealth SACA-2 Application](#) (includes Long-term Care Supplement and PCA Supplement)
- [MassHealth Disability Supplement](#)
- [SF-LTSS-ASAP Form](#): “Notice of Clinical Eligibility Determination for State-Funded Community-Based Long-Term Services and Supports”
- [PCA Supplement](#)