

What is the Health Safety Net?

- The Health Safety Net (HSN) is a trust fund that reimburses acute care hospitals and community health centers (CHCs) for emergent and medically necessary health care services provided to qualified uninsured and underinsured Massachusetts residents.
- The Health Safety Net is not a Medicaid plan, or program, and the differences lay in not having members, and with a focus on provider reimbursement when no other source of payment is available for services otherwise payable by MassHealth.
- There are three main sources of HSN Funding
 - An assessment on Acute Hospitals ~\$165M
 - A surcharge assessment on Insurers ~\$165M
 - Budget-appropriated transfer from the General Fund \$0-\$30M



How does one become HSN eligible?

- Patients can be found HSN eligible one of two ways:
 - Submit a completed health services application through MA Health Connector.

Eligible patients must meet the following criteria:

- Resident of Massachusetts;
 - Gross Income equal to or less than 300% Federal Poverty Level (FPL)
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- Through a “special circumstance” process:
 - Medical Hardship
 - Bad Debt
 - Confidential Minor
 - Domestic Violence



What are the HSN types of reimbursement?

- **Primary_Payment:** For claims that the provider did not receive or received under 5% of total charge HSN will pay for the claims at an amount described in our regulations at 101 CMR 614.000.
- **Coordination of Benefit:** When services are rendered at an eligible Health Safety Net provider, the Health Safety Net is capable of coordinating benefits with such primary payers like:
 - a.) Medicare
 - b.) Medicare like products
 - c.) Commercial
 - d.) Casualty, Auto, and Workmen's comp
 - e.) Medicaid

These benefits can cover patient cost share amounts such as deductibles and co-insurance as well as claims denied by the prior payer in certain circumstances, like benefit exhaustion when the service is medically necessary.



What are the HSN types of reimbursement (cont.)?

- **Special Circumstances** (paid as Primary Payment):
 - Confidential: reimburses eligible providers for confidential sexual health services for family planning.
 - Confidential Minor: reimburses eligible providers for confidential sexual health services for minors.
 - Domestic Violence: reimburses eligible providers for medical services **protecting the identity of victims of domestic abuse**.
- **Medical Hardship**: Reimburses eligible providers for charges for healthcare services that has caused financial hardship to an eligible recipient as described in 101 CMR 613.05. Eligibility for this program requires an application process that include claim information as well as evidence of hardship.
- **Bad Debt**: If an eligible provider has unpaid debt >120 days, they can submit the debt to HSN for payment. Providers must show due diligence prior to Bad Debt submission as described in regulation 101 CMR 613.06.



How does one access HSN services?

- In order to have services reimbursed by the Health Safety Net, those services must have been rendered in one of the following three places:
 - 1.) Acute Hospitals (Inpatient or Outpatient),
 - 2.) Hospital Licensed Health Center or
 - 3.) Community Health Center



What types of services does HSN reimburse?

HSN reimbursable services at eligible facilities include:

- Administrative Days
- Ambulatory Surgery Services
- Audiologist Services
- Chiropractic Services.
- Dental Services
- Durable Medical Equipment
- Family Planning Services
- Hearing Instrument Services
- Inpatient Hospice Services
- Inpatient Psychiatric
- Laboratory Services.
- Medical Supplies.
- Mental Health Services
- Nurse Midwife Services
- Nurse Practitioner Services
- Observation Services
- Orthotic Services
- Outpatient Services
- Outpatient Psychiatric Services
- Pharmacy Services
- Physician Services
- Podiatrist Services
- Prosthetic Services
- Radiology Services
- Rehabilitation Services
- Renal Dialysis Services
- Speech/Hearing Services
- Sterilization Services
- Substance Use Disorder Services
- Therapy Services
- Tobacco Cessation Services
- Vision Care Services



HSN and Other Coverages

The Health Safety Net is a fund which health care providers access for financial reimbursement when services are rendered to the uninsured as well as the underinsured.

This is done in a variety of ways from covering co-insurance, deductibles and co-pays from the appropriate primary payers to the underinsured.

To acting as the primary health care source to the uninsured for a wide range of healthcare services.



HSN and Other Coverage (Continued)

How does HSN work with other coverages?

- Medicare
 - Medicare Products
 - Private Payers (BCBS, TUFTS)
 - Medicaid
 - Children's Medical Security Plan
- Eligible providers are able to submit claims for unpaid balances by the primary payers.
- These unpaid balances may include coinsurances, deductibles, copays and non-covered services.



Health Resources and Service Administration HRSA

Health Resources and Services Administration

The Health Safety Net may reimburse for allowable COVID-19 testing, treatment, and vaccine services that were not reimbursed through HRSA subject to all limitations described in 101 CMR 613.000 and 614.000. HSN would like to remind providers to verify eligibility on the Provider Online Service Center for potential reimbursement. Providers are urged to review [All Provider Bulletin 342](#) for additional information concerning this issue.



CHC's and G2025 / FY20 Closure

G2025 – Update

The Health Safety Net has advised providers to bill using the most appropriate evaluation and management code(s) in relation to services previously billed to Medicare using G2025. Providers are advised to bill using the most appropriate allowable HSN service code when billing for claims previously billed to Medicare using G2025.

FY 2020 Closing

Providers are reminded that Fiscal Year 2020 will be closing on September 30, 2022. Any claims or corrections for FY20 must be completed before the fiscal year is closed. Any claims submitted for processing after FY 2020 closes will be denied by the Health Safety Net (HSN) for submitting after the fiscal year closure date.



Health Safety Net Resources

Health Safety Net Helpdesk

If an HSN provider has any questions about this presentation, please contact the HSN Customer Service line at 800-609-7232 or by email at HSNHelpdesk@state.ma.us.

HSN Regulation 101 CMR 613.00:

[101 CMR 613.00: HEALTH SAFETY NET ELIGIBLE SERVICES](#)

HSN Regulation 101 CMR 614.00:

[101 CMR 614.00: HEALTH SAFETY NET PAYMENTS AND FUNDING](#)

Health Safety Net Billing Updates:

[Library](#)

