

Subchapter Number and Title 4. Program Regulations (130 CMR 410.000)

Page 4-28

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410.438: Acupuncture

(A) Introduction. MassHealth members are eligible to receive acupuncture for the treatment of pain as described in 130 CMR 410.438(C), for use as an anesthetic as described in 130 CMR 433.454(C): Acupuncture as an Anesthetic, and for use for detoxification as described in 130 CMR 418.406(C)(3): Acupuncture Detoxification

(B) General. 130 CMR 410.438 applies specifically to acupuncture services rendered in a hospital by physicians and licensed practitioners of acupuncture.

(C) Acupuncture for the Treatment of Pain. MassHealth provides a total of 20 sessions of acupuncture for the treatment of pain per member per year without prior authorization. If the member's condition, treatment, or diagnosis changes, the member may receive more sessions of medically-necessary acupuncture treatment with prior authorization.

(D) Provider Qualifications for Acupuncture.

(1) Qualified Providers.

(a) Physicians

(b) Other practitioners who are licensed in acupuncture by the Massachusetts Board of Registration in Medicine under 243 CMR 5.00: The Practice of Acupuncture

(2) Supervising Physicians. Supervising physicians must ensure that acupuncture practitioners for whom the physician will submit claims, possess the appropriate training, credentials, and licensure.

(E) Conditions of Payment. The MassHealth agency pays the hospital for services of an acupuncturist (in accordance with 130 CMR 410.438(F)) when the:

(1) services are limited to the scope of practice authorized by state law or regulation (including but not limited to 243 CMR 5.00: The Practice of Acupuncture);

(2) the acupuncturist has a current license or certificate of registration from the Massachusetts Board of Registration in Medicine; and

(3) services are provided pursuant to a supervisory arrangement with a physician.

(F) Acupuncture Claims Submissions.

(1) Hospitals may submit claims for on-site acupuncture services when physicians provide those services to MassHealth members or as an exception to 130 CMR 450.301(A) when a licensed practitioner under the supervision of a physician provides

those services directly to MassHealth members. See Subchapter 6 of the Acute Outpatient Manual for service code descriptions and billing requirements.

(2) For MassHealth members receiving services under any of the acupuncture codes on the same date of service as a visit, the hospital may bill for both the visit and the acupuncture services performed or supervised by a hospital-based physician.