

Commonwealth of Massachusetts MassHealth Provider Manual Series

Subchapter Number and Title4 Program Regulations (130 CMR 433.000)
Page 4-34 and 4-35 (pages 35-36 on the PDF)
Physician Manual Transmittal Letter PHY-140
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Acupuncture – the insertion of metal needles through the skin at certain points on the body, with or without the use of herbs, with or without the application of an electric current, and with or without the application of heat to the needles, skin, or both.

433.440: Acupuncture

(A) Introduction. MassHealth members are eligible to receive acupuncture for the treatment of pain as described in 130 CMR 433.440(C), for use as an anesthetic as described in 130 CMR 433.454(C), and for use for detoxification as described in 130 CMR 418.406(C)(3): Acupuncture Detoxification

(B) General. 130 CMR 433.440 applies specifically to 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 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 physicians, physician employers of an acupuncturist (in accordance with 130 CMR 433.401(F)), independent nurse practitioners licensed in acupuncture, or independent nurse midwives licensed in acupuncture for acupuncture services 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)Physicians, independent nurse practitioners licensed in acupuncture, and independent nurse midwives licensed in acupuncture may submit claims for acupuncture services when they provide those services directly 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 Physician 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 an office visit, the physician, independent nurse practitioner licensed in acupuncture, or independent nurse midwife licensed in acupuncture may bill for either an office visit or the acupuncture code, but may not bill for both an office visit and the acupuncture code for the same member on the same date when the office visit and the acupuncture services are performed in the same location. This limitation does not apply to a significant, separately identifiable office visit provided by the same provider on the same day of the acupuncture service.