

UPDATE CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)



Stay informed. Take precautions. Stay safe.

Dear Members,

MassHealth has issued new billing flexibilities for the GAFC program in response to the challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic. In their latest bulletin issued for LTSS Providers in response to COVID-19, MassHealth outlined new flexibilities being implemented. This bulletin is an update to the one highlighted by Mass-ALA on April 1, 2020 (click [here](#) to read this past communication).

Of particular interest to the assisted living industry is the introduction of a new guidance related to billing in the Group Adult Foster Care Program which is summarized below:

Typically, GAFC providers may bill up to 15 Non-Medical Leave of Absence Days (NMLOA) and up to 30 Medical Leave of Absence Days (MLOA) per member per calendar year. Currently, in the situation where a member is quarantined from his/her GAFC Direct Care Aide due to COVID-19 and the GAFC Direct Care Aide is unable to provide GAFC services as a result, the provider may bill MLOA days. In such cases, the member's record should reflect the COVID-19 issue when using MLOA days for that purpose.

These flexibilities are to be applied in accordance with the standards set forth in the All Provider Bulletin 289 located on the MassHealth website. The newly-updated bulletin, in its entirety, can be found at: [MassHealth LTSS Provider Information: Updates Related to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\)](#)

Unless otherwise stated, information provided in this document is effective for the duration of the state of emergency declared via Executive Order No 591. 2

Please contact us if you have any questions at, MassALA@mass-ala.org

in understanding the evolving guidance regarding the current COVID 19 public health threat. It is not intended to be a primary public health or medical resource, but is provided as a clearinghouse for or compilation of various guidance issued by official and related sources.

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