



EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
OFFICE OF MEDICAID
ONE ASHBURTON PLACE, BOSTON, MA 02108



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UNDERSECRETARY
FOR MASSHEALTH

May 5, 2026

Chair Michael J. Rodrigues
Senate Committee on Ways & Means
State House Room 212
Boston, MA 02133

Chair Aaron Michlewitz
House Committee on Ways and Means
State House Room 243
Boston, MA 02133

Chair Cindy Friedman
Joint Committee on Health Care Financing
State House Room 313
Boston, MA 02133

Chair John Lawn
Joint Committee on Health Care Financing
State House Room 236
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Chairs,

Line item 4000-0300 of the Fiscal Year 2025 budget, Chapter 140 of the Acts of 2024, requires the Office of Medicaid (MassHealth) to report to you the following information:

"provided further, that not later than March 7, 2025, the executive office of health and human services, in consultation with office of Medicaid, shall submit a report to the executive office for administration and finance, the joint committee on health care financing and the house and senate committees on ways and means on the review of wage payment rates for the provision of continuous skilled nursing care, as established in 101 CMR 350.04, 101 CMR 361, and 101 CMR 453, including: (I) an aggregated overview of the wage payment rates paid by home health agencies to staff or contracted nurses providing continuous skilled nursing care, including any increases in said wage rates resulting from increases in Medicaid rates paid to home health agencies for continuous skilled nursing care; (II) an aggregated overview of the proportion of the Medicaid reimbursement rate paid directly as wages and benefits to nurses providing continuous skilled nursing care through a home health agency that contracts with MassHealth; (III) an aggregated breakdown of said wage rates as applied to the acuity level of patients receiving continuous skilled nursing care; (IV) an aggregated breakdown of said wage rates as applied to the licensure level of the providers of continuous skilled nursing care; (V) state costs for wage rates promulgated in state fiscal years 2020 to 2024, inclusive, by regulation, department and program; (VI) the fiscal impact of increases in state funding versus prior fiscal year actual costs for wage rates promulgated for state fiscal years 2020 to 2024, inclusive, by regulation, department and program; and (VII) recommendations on information to be included in any future reporting by home health agencies receiving an increase of continuous skilled nursing care rates provided by the office of Medicaid;

provided further, that home health agencies providing continuous skilled nursing care shall provide all information and documentation requested by the executive office of health and human services to compile the required report”.

As of January 2025, the MassHealth continuous skilled nursing (CSN) program serves 1,010 members. Fifty-five MassHealth-enrolled continuous skilled nursing agencies, as well as approximately 375 MassHealth-enrolled independent nurse providers serve this population. CSN services are skilled nursing care provided by a licensed nurse to eligible MassHealth members who require more than two continuous hours of nursing services per day. Many of the members who receive CSN services have complex care needs that are served through multiple in-home and outpatient care providers. Note that in January 2022, MassHealth established a new provider type, Continuous Skilled Nursing agency to separate continuous skilled nursing services provided by agencies from home health services (intermittent nursing) provided by agencies.

Attached is one report with five sections containing the following information: (a) Median nurse hourly wage broken down by licensure, shift differential, and acuity for January 1, 2024 through July 31, 2024 and August 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024, reflecting the effects on gross wages from an August 1, 2024 CSN rate increase; (b) gross median wage paid to nurses providing CSN as a percentage of the MassHealth rate; (c) total amount paid by MassHealth to agencies for fee-for-service continuous skilled nursing (CSN) services, broken down by fiscal year and provider type; (d) year over year difference in total amount paid for fee-for-service CSN services provided by agencies; and (e) recommendations on information to be included in any future reporting by agencies providing CSN services.

Data for this report was collected through MassHealth’s claims system as well as a survey sent to 55 agencies providing CSN services to MassHealth members. MassHealth received 33 agency responses to its survey, and these 33 agencies represent approximately 99% of MassHealth CSN expenditures to agency providers in calendar year 2024.

I hope you find this report useful and informative. Please feel free to contact Sarah Nordberg at Sarah.Nordberg@mass.gov with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike Levine". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Mike Levine

cc: Kiame Mahaniah, MD, MBA