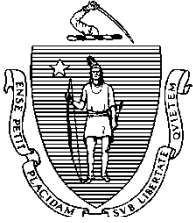


The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Executive Office of Health and Human Services
Department of Public Health
Bureau of Health Care Safety and Quality
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Memorandum

TO: Mobile Integrated Health Applicants

FROM: Elizabeth Daake Kelley, MPH, MBA, Director
Bureau of Health Care Safety and Quality

SUBJECT: MIH applications for COVID-19 purposes

DATE: March 31, 2020

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) continues to work with state, federal and local partners on the outbreak of novel Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19), caused by the virus SARS-CoV-2, and we continue to appreciate the essential role you have in responding to this evolving situation.

The Department of Public Health recognizes that during the COVID-19 public health emergency, patients with non-emergent diagnoses and symptoms, whether COVID-19 related or not, may be better treated in settings outside of the hospital, such as their homes, while hospitals are experiencing a significant increase in patients with COVID-19. In support of these efforts, DPH will accept applications for Mobile Integrated Health ("MIH") programs seeking temporary approval for MIH programs during the COVID-19 emergency. The temporary approval for an MIH program will expire ninety (90) days after the end of the public health emergency, as declared by Governor Baker. DPH will contact approved programs within 30 days after the end of the public health emergency to discuss an appropriate step-down plan for each program, including but not limited to how to apply for a permanent MIH license (with applicable fees) or an appropriate plan to cease operations.

For the purposes of the temporary approval, DPH will waive fees associated with the MIH program and expedite review for MIH applications, provided that applications meet the following requirements:

- The Applicant is a hospital and will provide the required medical control;
- The Applicant must partner with a DPH licensed ambulance service and demonstrate capacity to conduct home visits for the defined patient panel;
- An Applicant must notify patients that MIH programs approved pursuant to this guidance are temporary and may cease operations after the end of the public health emergency;
- The Applicant will comply with all other MIH requirements and guidance, including but not limited to, data submission requirements.

Applicants for temporary approval of an MIH program should submit a complete MIH application with all supporting documentation found here: <https://www.mass.gov/how-to/apply-to-operate-an-mih-program>. Please note that for the purposes of the temporary approval, the Department will waive the requirement that programs submit a Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) as required in Section 3 of the MIH application and the corresponding Guidance in Preparing a Gap in Service Delivery Narrative. Additionally, the Department will accept the COVID-19 outbreak as a demonstrated gap in service delivery.

Should you have any questions or need additional information, please contact the MIH manager at MIH@state.ma.us or via phone at (617) 753-8484.