

MCG message

To: All Blue Cross Complete providers

Date: May 28, 2026

Subject: Michigan Department of Health and Human Services delays implementation of Mental Health Framework coverage responsibility changes

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services has delayed the implementation of the Mental Health Framework coverage responsibility changes that were scheduled to take effect Oct. 1, 2026.

The Mental Health Framework Initiative included multiple elements, designed to improve service delivery for mental health care services.

One element of the Mental Health Framework Initiative included shifting coverage responsibility between Medicaid Health Plans and Prepaid Inpatient Health Plans for specific mental health care services. Under these changes, MHPs would cover 3 new services (crisis residential, inpatient psychiatric, and outpatient partial hospitalization) for certain members, while PIHPs covered all mental health care needs for other members, determined by level of need.

These coverage responsibility changes were previously scheduled to go into effect Oct. 1, 2026. MDHHS is temporarily delaying this specific element of the Mental Health Framework Initiative to allow more time for system-wide preparation. Under the original changes, the coverage responsibility would be driven by a benefit plan in Community Health Automated Medicaid Processing System, or CHAMPS called “BH-COVER”. Providers will still see this new benefit plan assigned to certain MHP members effective Oct. 1, 2026, but will not need to change processes based on its assignment.

Other Mental Health Framework changes—including the expansion of standardized assessments for Medicaid members seeking mental health care under Bulletin [MMP 26-01](#)* for the state’s standardized assessment policy are continuing.

Improving coordination, access, and quality of care remains a top priority, and MDHHS will continue advancing key Mental Health Framework activities, including:

- Expanding use of the state-specified mental health assessment tools, LOCUS for adults and MichiCANS Screener for children and adolescents
- Reviewing data to better understand service needs and access to mental health care for Medicaid beneficiaries,
- Continuing to clarify coverage responsibility for existing covered services to minimize provider confusion and abrasion;



- Deepening relationships between providers, Community Mental Health Service Programs (CMHSPs), PIHPs and Medicaid Health Plans to improve service delivery and the beneficiary experience across the State.

For full details on [MMP 26-01](#), and required training, go [michigan.gov](https://www.michigan.gov).^{*} If you have any questions, contact your Blue Cross Complete provider account executive or the Blue Cross Complete Provider Inquiry at **1-888-312-5713**.

^{*}Our website is mibluccrosscomplete.com. While website addresses for other organizations are provided for reference, Blue Cross Complete doesn't control these sites and isn't responsible for their content.