

Frail Elder Waiver

Brief Waiver Description



Description	
PURPOSE:	Many elders who are nursing facility eligible prefer to remain in their homes in the community when sufficient supports can be put into place to maintain them safely in this setting. The purpose of the Frail Elder Waiver is to make such supports available to frail elders, aged 60 and older who have been determined through an assessment process to meet a nursing facility level of care and require supports to reside successfully in the community. Included in this waiver are individuals with a variety of needs that can be met through supports that range from basic to intensive levels.
GOAL:	The goals of the Frail Elder Waiver include: maintaining eligible elders in a home setting, avoiding, delaying or shortening nursing facility stays, meeting the wishes of elders who prefer to stay in their homes, and providing cost effective, high quality alternatives to support elders' home and community based service needs.
ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE:	The Executive Office of Elder Affairs (EOEA or Elder Affairs) is an agency under the umbrella of the Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS), the single state agency. As such EOEA is under the administrative authority of EOHHS. EOEA is responsible for providing supports to elders, and is directly responsible for the oversight of the day-to-day operation of the Frail Elder Waiver on behalf of EOHHS. The EOHHS MassHealth Office of Long Term Services and Supports (LTSS) oversees the provision to eligible members of long term services and supports including through the Senior Care Options program, a Massachusetts integrated managed care program for eligible elders. EOEA and MassHealth meet regularly and collaborate on organizational matters, waiver management, quality reporting and other aspects of waiver administration. Elder Affairs contracts with and oversees the on-going responsibilities of non-profit agencies called Aging Services Access Points (ASAPs), most of which are also Area Agencies on Aging. Waiver participants age 65 and older may choose to voluntarily enroll in a Senior Care Organization (SCO) which is a Medicaid managed care plan that manages all covered State Plan and Frail Elder Waiver services for enrolled members who are waiver participants. ASAPs and SCOs are responsible for assessing clinical level of care (LOC) for FEW participants (initial LOC for all waiver participants is done through an ASAP), conducting needs assessments, developing and monitoring services plans, conducting administrative case management functions and reporting client and quality-related data to Elder Affairs. Case management is provided to waiver participants as an administrative activity. Elder Affairs conducts oversight of all ASAP activities and the MassHealth Office of Long Term Services and Supports (LTSS) conducts oversight of all SCOs. Elder Affairs leads efforts and reviews quality jointly with LTSS.
SERVICE DELIVERY:	Through development of a person-centered service plan, waiver services are planned, authorized, arranged for and monitored by the case manager. Waiver participants who choose to enroll in a SCO will receive all waiver services through the SCO as well as work with an ASAP-employed Case Manager (the Geriatric Services Supports Coordinator, GSSC) under a contract between an ASAP and the SCO. Waiver services delivered through traditional service ASAP service delivery model use a network of contracted direct care providers. As noted, waiver services are coordinated and authorized through, and service delivery is arranged and monitored by, the Case Manager.

Reference: Application for 1915(c) HCBS Waiver: MA.0059.R08.00 - Jan 01, 2024