



## Mass HiWay Newsletter

December 2020

For more information, visit [www.masshiway.net](http://www.masshiway.net)

### Spotlight Story: MVACO and Family Continuity



My Care Family, also known as the Merrimack Valley Accountable Care Organization (MVACO), is a formalized partnership between Greater Lawrence Family Health Center, Lawrence General Hospital, and AllWays Health Partners. MVACO regularly exchanges care plans with their MassHealth Community Partners, including Family

Continuity, a non-profit mental health and social services agency that supports Eastern and Central Massachusetts.

In their original workflow, a Community Partner would generate the care plan after seeing a patient and fax it to MVACO. MVACO would then take the care plan to the patient's physician for signature, and send it back to the Community Partner via fax. This process could take significant time to complete, so MVACO developed a new workflow utilizing electronic exchange of information, and piloted the program with Family Continuity.



With assistance from the HiWay Adoption and Utilization Services (HAUS) team, MVACO worked with Family Continuity to implement an electronic workflow to improve the information exchange process. In the new workflow, a staff member at Family Continuity sends the care plan to MVACO via Direct Messaging over the Mass HiWay.

Once the care plan is received by MVACO, it is forwarded to the appropriate physician who reviews and signs it, before sending it back to Family Continuity via another Direct Message. The use of Direct Messaging has streamlined the process of exchanging care plans and allows for easier tracking as the staff only needs to monitor one communication method.

[Read the Full Story](#)

### Extension Deadline: Event Notification Service (ENS)

The Executive Office of Health and Human Services issued an Administrative Bulletin, [AB 20-83](#), effective November 1, 2020. AB 20-83 extends the date by which all Acute Care Hospitals are required to submit Admission, Discharge, and Transfer (ADT) data to a Certified Event Notification Service (ENS) Vendor and the date upon which penalties for noncompliance with this submission requirement commence.

The new date for required ADT submission is April 1, 2021, and the new date for Acute Care Hospitals becoming subject to penalties for ADT submission non-compliance is October 1, 2021.

EOHHS issued this extension to provide Acute Care Hospitals additional time to engage with a Certified ENS Vendor for contracting and connecting purposes. EOHHS will distribute the list of Certified ENS Vendors to this email list as soon as it is finalized.

[Read Administrative Bulletin AB 20-83](#)

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## Attestation Forms Now Available: Submit Your Attestation Form Now!

The 2020 Mass Hlway online attestation and exception forms are now available. Provider Organizations must make their submission using these online webforms. **PDF submissions will not be accepted.** Please click below to access the forms and detailed information and instructions.

[Attestation and Exception Forms](#)

[Detailed Information and Instructions](#)

### The attestation deadline is **December 31.**

All organizations subject to the Connection Requirement must make a submission to the Hlway by that date. If an organization was unable to meet the Connection Requirement, it must submit an Exception Form for review and consideration by the Mass Hlway.

For more information, see the [FAQs](#) regarding the Mass Hlway regulations and connection requirement. You can also find detailed information about the regulations, including educational presentations, [here](#).

You can also submit questions directly to the Mass Hlway team at [MassHlway@state.ma.us](mailto:MassHlway@state.ma.us).

- **Acute Care Hospitals** must both send AND receive information over the Hlway to support a provider-to-provider communications use case, and submit a **Year 4** Attestation Form.
- **Large Community Health Centers and Large and Medium Medical Ambulatory Practices** must both send AND receive information over the Hlway to support a provider-to-provider communications use case and submit a **Year 3** Attestation Form.
- **Small Community Health Centers** must either send OR receive information over the Hlway to support a provider-to-provider communications use case and submit a **Year 2** Attestation Form.

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## HAUS Services

The [Mass Hlway](#) offers Hlway Adoption and Utilization Support (HAUS) Services to help organizations effectively deploy HIE to enhance care coordination.

There are three tracks available to receive HAUS Services:

- Healthcare organizations participating in MassHealth programs such as Accountable Care Organizations (ACOs), Community Partners (CPs), and Community Service Agencies (CSAs);
- Provider organizations that need to meet the Hlway Connection Requirement per the Mass Hlway Regulations (101 CMR 20.00); and

- Healthcare organizations that want to use Direct Messaging to support care coordination between healthcare providers.

Organizations participating on any track will receive HAUS Services free of charge.

[Learn more about HAUS Services](#)

Visit the HAUS Services webpage to find valuable resources including informational webinars and HAUS project tools.

## HIT in the News



[ONC to launch](#) address standardization project to lift patient matching



[5 steps for interoperability](#) excellence for healthcare providers



[Epic's Care Everywhere](#) interoperability platform shows big jump in data exchange



[MEDITECH](#) taps Google Cloud to offer cloud-based solutions



[Improving patient](#) privacy regulations for interoperability rule



[The health system](#) of the future will be consumer-centric, wellness-oriented, and digitally connected



[Telehealth's evolution](#) in 2020 will continue in the new year with streamlined technologies



[Tips to integrate](#) social determinants of health data into the EHR

Mass HIway | [masshiway@state.ma.us](mailto:masshiway@state.ma.us) | [www.masshiway.net](http://www.masshiway.net)

Executive Office of Health and Human Services  
Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
100 Hancock Street  
Quincy, MA 02171

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