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Statement by Lora Pellegrini, President and CEO of the Massachusetts Association of Health Plans, on the Impact of the Expiration of the Federal Public Health Emergency on Commercial Health Insurance Coverage

February 1, 2023

“The expiration of the federal public health emergency (PHE) will have no impact on commercial health plan coverage and MassHealth coverage of COVID-19 treatment, testing, or vaccines, since Massachusetts has codified coverage for all COVID-19 related emergency, inpatient, outpatient, and cognitive rehabilitation services, including all professional, diagnostic, and laboratory services, as well as all COVID-19 vaccines and PCR and antigen testing into statute under Chapter 260 of the Acts of 2020.

However, the expiration of the PHE will have a considerable impact on health care costs, as pharmaceutical and vaccine manufacturers seek to significantly increase prices for COVID-19 vaccines, boosters, treatments and tests as pricing protections tied to the PHE expire. In recent days, pharmaceutical manufacturers have signaled their intent to raise prices to three to four times greater than the current price, which will increase already high pharmaceutical spending, challenging health care affordability for employers and consumers.”

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