



March 4, 2026

Andrew Jackmauh, Acting Executive Director
Center for Health Information and Analysis
501 Boylston Street, Suite 5100
Boston, MA 02116

David Seltz, Executive Director
Health Policy Commission
50 Milk Street, 8th Floor
Boston, MA 02109

**Re: Amendments to CHIA Regulations - 957 CMR 3.00 and HPC Regulations - 958
CMR 9.00**

Dear Acting Executive Director Jackmauh and Executive Director Seltz,

On behalf of the Massachusetts Association of Health Plans and our 13 member health plans and one behavioral health organization, providing health insurance coverage to nearly 3 million Massachusetts residents, we appreciate the opportunity to share comments on proposed regulations, 957 CMR 3.00: Assessment on Acute Hospitals, Ambulatory Surgical Centers, and Pharmacy Benefit Managers and 958 CMR 9.00: Assessment on certain Health Care Providers and Pharmacy Benefit Managers.

MAHP and its member health plans recognize the need for emergency rulemaking to ensure timely implementation of the FY2025 assessment structure and support a stable and equitable framework to fund the work of Center for Health Information and Analysis (CHIA) and the Health Policy Commission (HPC). We also appreciate the agencies' clarification that any foregone assessment related to pharmaceutical manufacturers and non-hospital providers will not be redistributed across other assessed entities.

At the same time, it is important to note that Chapters 342 and 343 of the Acts of 2024 contemplate inclusion of an assessment on pharmaceutical manufacturers and non-hospital provider organizations as part of the overall statutory framework. The current regulations assess acute care hospitals, ambulatory surgical centers, pharmacy benefit managers, and managed care organizations while deferring pharmaceutical manufacturers and non-hospital provider organizations' assessments. While we understand the considerations informing this approach, this represents a deviation from the statutory structure and intent enacted by the Massachusetts Legislature.

We offer these comments to ensure alignment between the statutes and regulatory implementation and to support consideration of inclusion of these entities in future rulemaking, as appropriate. The Health Policy Commission (HPC) has identified the high cost of prescription drugs as one of the primary drivers of health care spending in Massachusetts, rising by \$1 billion between 2022 and 2023 alone according to the Center for Health Information and Analysis (CHIA). Health care cost containment is a shared responsibility among all players in the health care sector, and Chapter 342 and 343 of Acts of 2024 emphasize shared participation in funding, as well as expanded oversight and transparency in this area. Ensuring that implementation reflects these principles will promote accountability, support equitable distribution of responsibility, and strengthen the Commonwealth's ability to address key cost drivers over time.

We appreciate the agencies' efforts to implement the new assessment structure and value the engagement that has taken place throughout this process. We look forward to continued engagement and welcome opportunities to provide feedback that supports effective implementation of the statutory framework.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lora M. Pellegrini". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Lora M. Pellegrini, President and CEO
Massachusetts Association of Health Plans