

OVERVIEW OF THE MASSACHUSETTS HEALTH POLICY COMMISSION

MARCH 2025



Established: In 2012 by *An Act Improving the Quality of Health Care and Reducing Costs through Increased Transparency, Efficiency, and Innovation*



Goal: Reduce total health care spending growth to meet the Health Care Cost Growth Benchmark, which is set by the HPC and tied to the state's overall economic growth



Vision: A transparent and innovative health care system that is accountable for producing better health and better care at a lower cost for all residents of the Commonwealth

Annually, the HPC hosts **hearings** to establish the health care cost growth benchmark and examine cost trends across the Commonwealth. Alongside the annual Cost Trends Hearing, the HPC publishes an annual **Cost Trends Report and Policy Recommendations**.

Read all Cost Trends Reports at MassHPC.gov



“Not later than April 15 of every year, the board shall establish a **health care cost growth benchmark** for the average growth in total health care expenditures in the commonwealth for the next calendar year.”

Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 6D, Section 9

3.6%

2025
BENCHMARK
SET IN 2024

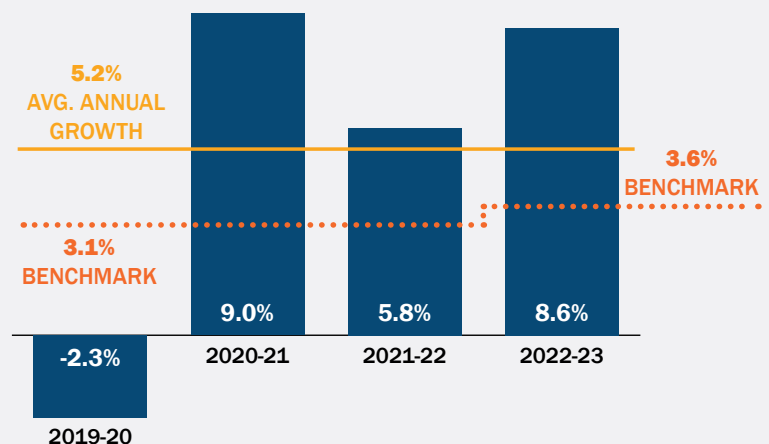


PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT PLANS (PIPS)

- PIPs are one of the key mechanisms by which the HPC can enforce the health care cost growth benchmark and **ensure accountability** for payers and providers in the Commonwealth.
- The Massachusetts Center for Health Information and Analysis (CHIA) refers any **payers** or **providers** exceeding the cost growth benchmark to the HPC for further review. The HPC may require entities to implement a PIP and demonstrate reduced spending.

MassHPC.gov/cost-containment/pips

State Performance Against the Benchmark: 2019–2023



MARKET OVERSIGHT

- Provider changes, including **mergers and acquisitions**, have been shown to impact the ability of the state's health care system to deliver high quality, cost-effective care for all residents.
- In April 2025, providers must submit notice to the HPC of any proposed **Material Change** to their operations or governance structure for review, including private equity investments, transfers of assets, and conversions from non-profit to for-profit.
- The HPC may elect to conduct a more comprehensive review of proposed changes that are anticipated to have a significant impact on the health care system, called a **Cost and Market Impact Review (CMIR)**.
[MassHPC.gov/moat/mcn-cmir](https://masshpc.gov/moat/mcn-cmir)

REGISTRATION OF PROVIDER ORGANIZATION (MA-RPO) PROGRAM

The MA-RPO program is a **first-in-the-nation** initiative for collecting public standardized information on Massachusetts' largest health care providers.

[MassHPC.gov/moat/rpo](https://masshpc.gov/moat/rpo)

ACCOUNTABLE CARE ORGANIZATION (ACO) PROGRAM

Since its inception in 2017, the HPC's ACO Certification Program has established **all-payer standards for care delivery** and provided information to the public on the structures and operations of these organization.

[MassHPC.gov/cdt/aco](https://masshpc.gov/cdt/aco)

- Certified ACOs must foster a culture of continuous improvement, innovation, and **learning** to improve the patient experience and care.
- ACOs must demonstrate a strategic commitment to improve **health equity** for its patient population through data collection and patient engagement.
- ACOs must collect and use patient information to deliver and improve **patient-centered care**.

HPC INVESTMENT PROGRAMS

- Since 2014, the HPC has invested over **\$100 million** in health care organizations across the Commonwealth through a number of competitive grant processes.
- Funding supports the **enhancement of effective, efficient care** and the promotion of innovative care models.
- Chapter 343 of the Acts of 2025 adds **"advance health equity"** to the approved uses of the Health Care Payment Reform Trust Fund.

[MassHPC.gov/cdt/investment-programs](https://masshpc.gov/cdt/investment-programs)

OFFICE OF HEALTH RESOURCE PLANNING (OHRP)

The OHRP is charged with developing a **state health plan** that identifies current resources and anticipated needs.

[MassHPC.gov/offices-and-task-forces/ohrp](https://masshpc.gov/offices-and-task-forces/ohrp)

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH WORKFORCE CENTER (BHWC)

The BHWC is the HPC's hub for research on the behavioral health **workforce needs and policy recommendations**.

[MassHPC.gov/bh-workforce](https://masshpc.gov/bh-workforce)

PRIMARY CARE TASK FORCE

The HPC co-chairs a 25-member task force charged with studying and making recommendations on **primary care access, delivery, and payment** in Massachusetts.

[MassHPC.gov/offices-and-task-forces/pctf](https://masshpc.gov/offices-and-task-forces/pctf)

MATERNAL HEALTH TASK FORCE

The HPC co-chairs a nine-member task force charges with studying and making recommendations on **maternal health access and birthing patient safety** in the Commonwealth.

[MassHPC.gov/offices-and-task-forces/mhtf](https://masshpc.gov/offices-and-task-forces/mhtf)

PHARMACEUTICAL OVERSIGHT

- Chapter 342 of the Acts of 2025 expands HPC oversight to **pharmaceutical manufacturers** and **pharmacy benefit managers**.
- The new law created the Office of Pharmaceutical Policy and Analysis to analyze and report on **pharmaceutical spending and access trends**.
- Since 2018, the HPC has been authorized to review and propose a value of **high-cost drugs** for which negotiations between manufacturers and MassHealth have failed.

[MassHPC.gov/offices-and-task-forces/oppa](https://masshpc.gov/offices-and-task-forces/oppa)