



In November 2017, the Contraceptive ACCESS bill was signed into law. This landmark legislation strengthened Massachusetts law to ensure access to no-copay birth control while (1) improving access to the full range of contraceptive options and (2) removing existing barriers to care.

Per this state law, if you are taking the pill or using the patch or ring, your insurance should cover a 12-month supply dispensed AT ONCE without any form of cost-sharing (copay, deductible, etc). In other words, you should get 12-months worth of pill packs, rings, or patches in a single visit to the pharmacy without paying anything.

Dispensing of a 12-month supply of contraceptives at once has been shown to increase consistent birth control use and reduce unintended pregnancy. The Contraceptive ACCESS law is even more important now, during the COVID-19 crisis, as we are all minimizing trips to places like pharmacies.

We have heard some reports that individuals have had trouble accessing this benefit. The goal of this survey is to better understand the barriers that exist. We ultimately want to ensure that this law is complied with across the state of Massachusetts. Additionally, we want to help you to get your 12-month supply - if you indicate that we can contact you, we will follow up with you to help you obtain your 12-month supply if you have not already.

The **eligibility requirements for ACCESS coverage** are listed below:

You are on the birth control pill, patch, or ring.

You have been on one specific brand of contraception for more than 3 months. You are planning on continuing to use this form of birth control for at least the next 12 months.

You have Massachusetts-based health insurance, including MassHealth, insurance acquired through the Massachusetts Health Connector, private insurance, or insurance through your Massachusetts-based employer. For those who receive health insurance through an employer or university: the employer or university does not self insure. This applies to any employer or university that sponsors your health insurance, including yours, your parents, or your partners. If an employer or university self-insures, that means they take on the risk, cost, and underwriting of health insurance to their employees or students. When self-insuring, an employer or university pays each time a member makes a claim instead of paying a premium to an insurer. It is common for employers with hundreds of employees to self-insure. Your Human Resources department (or Student Affairs Office, if you are a student) will know if your employer or university self-insures.

Additionally, note that an exemption from this law does exist for employers who are churches or qualified church controlled organizations. If you are unsure if your employer falls in this category, contact us at access@prochoicemass.org.

If you meet all of the above criteria, and want to help us, please follow these instructions:

1. Let us know that you're interested.
 - Fill out [this interest form](https://bit.ly/accinterest) (<https://bit.ly/accinterest>)
 - You will be contacted by a member of our team to offer help navigating this process.
2. Request a prescription from your clinician.
 - This might entail an in-person visit, a telehealth visit, or simply making a call or using an online portal to refill a prescription
 - Specify that the prescription should say "dispense 365-day supply" of whatever your method of birth control is - If there is a place to input a note to the pharmacy, have the clinician write, "per ACCESS law"
3. Attempt to fill the prescription at your pharmacy.
4. Let us know how it goes.
 - Fill out [this survey](https://bit.ly/accinterest) (<https://bit.ly/accinterest>)

Completion of this survey is completely voluntary. Responses will be analyzed in aggregate. Information about your experience may be shared, but will be completely de-identified and will not contain any personally identifiable information without your permission.

For more information, contact
access@prochoicemass.org