



### **March 3, 2015—New worksheet helps patients get cost estimates**

The Mass Collaborative has released a new tool to simplify the process of providing patients with detailed cost information about a proposed medical service, procedure, or hospital admission.

“State law requires doctors, hospitals and health insurers in Massachusetts to provide cost information to patients who request it. However, responding to such requests can be time consuming and confusing for patients and providers alike. We wanted to create a tool to make this task easier for everyone,” said Mass Collaborative representatives Karen Granoff, Senior Director of Managed Care Policy at the Massachusetts Hospital Association and Kerry Ann Hayon, Manager of the Physician Practice Resource Center at the Massachusetts Medical Society.

The new [Cost Estimate Worksheet](#) helps simplify the process of providing estimates to members by:

- Capturing all of the information needed into one short, easy-to-use form
- Defining common terms used to calculate costs
- Providing tips for medical providers and patients on how to use the form

#### **How you can use the form**

We urge you to complete the one-page worksheet to help patients give their health plan the information necessary to generate an accurate cost estimate.

Members don't have to provide this information to their health insurance carrier. This tool helps ensure that all necessary information for a cost estimate is collected up-front to speed the process.

In addition to being available on the Mass Collaborative website, the new form will also be available through the [Massachusetts Hospital Association](#), the [Massachusetts Medical Society](#), the [Massachusetts of Association of Health Plans](#) and health plan websites as well.

The Cost Estimate Worksheet is the latest tool developed by the Massachusetts Collaborative.