



May 16, 2024

## **New COVID-19 Fee Schedule Published**

On April 24, 2024, the [Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services \(HFS\)](#) published a new **[Illinois Medicaid COVID-19 Fee Schedule](#)** effective retroactively to **January 1, 2024.**

Questions regarding this notice may be directed to the Bureau of Professional and Ancillary Services at 877-782-5565 or the applicable [managed care plan](#).

For more information, please see the [HFS COVID-19 Updates page](#).

## **Practitioner Proposed Rate Adjustments for April 1, 2024**

On April 2, 2024, the [Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services \(HFS\)](#) issued a [Provider Notice](#) informing providers of planned rate adjustments effective for service dates beginning April 1, 2024. These rate adjustments impact both the fee-for-service (FFS) and the Medicaid managed care organizations (MCOs).

The proposed rate changes must be approved by the federal Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). HFS will

post new fee schedules as soon as the rate updates are approved by federal CMS.

The IPHA Third-Party Billing Team will provide updates as more information becomes available.



## WEBINAR WEDNESDAYS

On Wednesday, May 8, the IPHA Third-Party Billing Team hosted the webinar training, **Encore Presentation: Digging Deeper into the 2024 CMS Final Rule.** [Kem Tolliver](#), President and CEO of [Medical Revenue Cycle Specialists LLC](#) (MRCS), provided more details about the 2024 CMS Final Rule and Medicare Physician Fee Schedule.

The following learning objectives were covered:

1. Review of CPT and HCPCS codes related to Remote Patient Monitoring and Social Determinants of Health (SDOH).
2. Review and analysis of CPT/HCPCS codes commonly used by public health departments.
3. How to review and update your internal charge master.

Recordings of all IPHA Third-Party Billing webinars and the corresponding slide decks can be found on the [IPHA Third-Party Billing webpage](#).

**The IPHA Third-Party Billing Team is providing three webinar trainings**

## during the month of June!

On Monday, June 3, please join us for **Navigating the Financial Landscape of Adult Vaccines**. This panel discussion will cover the following topics:

- Review how the pandemic has impacted routine vaccination across all ages, particularly adults.
- Evaluate how the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) has expanded upon the Affordable Care Act (ACA) to ensure affordable access to vaccinations.
- Insights from a provider's perspective on best practices for a successful immunization program.

Panelists for this webinar will include:

- [Brent Ewig](#), MSPH, Chief Policy and Government Relations Officer, [Association of Immunization Managers](#).
- [Abby Bownas](#), Manager, [Adult Vaccine Access Coalition](#) (AVAC)
- [Emily Hendrickson](#), RN,BSN, MBA/HA Director of Nursing, [Adams County Health Department](#), President, [Illinois Public Health Nurse Administrators](#)

On Wednesday, June 5, please join us for **Medicare and People with HIV**, presented by [Lindsey Dawson](#), Associate Director for HIV Policy and Director for LGBTQ Health Policy, [KFF](#).

Learning objectives include:

- Information on recent Medicare policy updates that affect people with and

- vulnerable to HIV.
- An understanding of the intersection between Medicare and other programs (e.g. Medicaid, Ryan White).
- Participants will learn about the demographics (including recent shifts in demographics) of Medicare beneficiaries who are living with HIV.

On Wednesday, June 26, please join us for **Introduction to Medicaid Managed Care: Enrollment and Eligibility, Billing, and Specific Tips for Public Health Departments**, presented by [Angela Haggard](#), Senior Vice President, [SAGE Health Strategy](#). Learning objectives include:

- How Medicaid eligibility and enrollment works
- The key steps to bill Medicaid Managed Care
- Specific billing tips for Public Health Departments

Information and registration links for all three webinars will be emailed soon and will also be published on the [IPHA Upcoming Events page](#).

## TRAINING AND EDUCATION RESOURCES



The [Illinois Association of Medicaid Health Plans \(IAMHP\)](#) has published its **[Spring 2024 Newsletter](#)**. In this issue, you'll find information on:

- IAMHP's 2023 Annual Report

- Maintaining Momentum in Maternal Health
- IAMHP Webinars
- 2024 Annual Conference: Beyond the Basics

If you do not already receive IAMHP's publications, you may subscribe [here](#).

On Wednesday, June 5th, from 9–11 AM, **[Blue Cross Blue Shield of Illinois](#)** will be hosting a **Quarterly Provider Forum**. Among the items to be covered include:

- Medicaid membership and growth
- Housing initiatives
- Maternal and mental health
- Vaccine education
- Value based care

All professional providers and/or their office staff are welcome and there is no limit on the number of attendees. There will be time for Q&A following each presentation. To learn more and to register, click [here](#).

On Thursday, June 6, **[Molina Healthcare](#)** will be providing a **Provider Orientation**. To learn more and to register, click [here](#).

On Tuesday, June 18, **[Illinois Association of Medicaid Health Plans](#)** (IAMHP) will be providing a webinar on **Utilization Management**. For more information and to register, click [here](#).

On Wednesday, July 3, [Illinois Association of Medicaid Health Plans](#) (IAMHP) will be providing a webinar on **Universal Roster Billing**. For more information and to register, click [here](#).

## 2024 IAMHP Annual Conference

The [Illinois Association of Medicaid Health Plans \(IAMHP\)](#) has scheduled its [2024 Annual Conference](#) for October 21 – 23, 2024, at the Hyatt Lodge in Oak Brook, Illinois. In addition to providing several helpful training sessions for healthcare providers, this conference provides valuable opportunities to meet and network with management personnel from HFS and all the Illinois Medicaid Managed Care Organizations (MCOs).

We encourage every healthcare provider that routinely bills Illinois Medicaid health plans to participate in this important conference. To learn more and to register, please click [here](#).



HFS operates three distinct care coordination programs within Illinois' [Medicaid Managed Care program](#): [HealthChoice Illinois \(HCI\)](#), [YouthCare](#), and the [Medicare Medicaid Alignment Initiative \(MMAI\)](#). To help provide Medicaid clients with quality services, enhance healthcare coordination, and manage costs, HFS has

partnered with six [Managed Care Organizations](#) (MCOs), also known as Medicaid Health Plans, to manage and administer benefits for beneficiaries within each of these care coordination programs. The six Illinois Medicaid MCOs are:

- [Aetna Better Health Illinois](#)
- [Blue Cross Blue Shield of Illinois](#)
- [CountyCare](#)
- [Humana](#)
- [Meridian](#)
- [Molina Healthcare](#)

This month, we focus on [Meridian Health Plan of Illinois](#). Meridian serves clients enrolled in [HealthChoice Illinois \(HCI\)](#), [Medicare Medicaid Alignment Initiative \(MMAI\)](#), and [YouthCare](#).

For information about contracting with Meridian, you may visit their [Contracting Page](#). Providers who are already contracted with Meridian can make updates, corrections, or changes via their [Provider Updates](#) page. To attend a **Meridian Medicaid and MMAI Provider Orientation**, please register [here](#). Meridian requires all contracted providers to complete mandatory [Annual Trainings](#). Additional training resources are at their [Providing Training](#) page and [Upcoming Webinars](#) page. Their **Provider Manual** and other vital resources are available at their [Manuals, Forms, and Resources](#) page.

**Provider Relations Representatives** can be found [here](#). **Provider Notices** are archived [here](#) and copies of their **Monthly Provider Check-In** (newsletter) can be found [here](#). Providers may complete this [form](#) to

subscribe to Meridian's provider communications.

Eligibility can be verified via the [MEDI](#) system. Meridian also has a [verification tool](#) to determine eligibility within the provider portal. Guidance on Medicaid Pre-Authorization of services can be found [here](#).

To take advantage of **free interpretation services**, call Member and Provider Services at 866-606-3700 (TTY: 711), Monday through Friday, 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM and ask for an interpreter.

Directions on how to pursue claim denials can be found on their [Claims Disputes](#) page. For claim rejections, providers may email: [EDIBA@CENTENE.COM](mailto:EDIBA@CENTENE.COM). If all dispute efforts have been exhausted and a provider is still not satisfied with the outcome, providers can send claims to their assigned Provider Relations Representative for further review. If a provider does not have an assigned Provider Relations Representative, the provider can utilize the [Provider Relations Intake Form](#) for additional assistance. The [Providers Claims Alerts](#) page shares information about known claim processing issues and actions being taken to resolve them.

If you cannot find the information you need using the links above, additional information and resources are available [here](#) and at the Providers' [FAQs](#) page. Additional **Provider Relations contact information** can be found [here](#) and general contact information is [here](#).



## MOST VALUABLE RESOURCE



### *This Month's MVR*

This month's MVR award goes to [KFF](#) (formerly known as The Kaiser Family Foundation or The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation). KFF is an independent, non-partisan organization that focuses on healthcare data and policy. KFF conducts its own research, polling, and reporting. KFF's thorough, complete, and unbiased approach has earned a reputation for being one of the most reliable and comprehensive sources of information on all things related to healthcare.

Public health professionals can rely on KFF for timely and accurate information about the [Affordable Care Act \(ACA\)](#), [COVID-19](#), [HIV/AIDS](#), [Medicaid](#), [Medicare](#), [Mental Health](#), [Private Insurance](#), [Patient Rights and Consumer Protections](#), [Racial Equity and Health Policy](#), [Women's Health Policy](#), [State Health Facts](#), and more.

To learn more about KFF and its resources, visit: <https://www.kff.org/about-us/>. If you would like to receive KFF publications, you can subscribe [here](#).

## DID YOU NOTICE?



### *Did You Notice?*

HFS has recently issued important Provider Notices:

[Electronic Visit Verification \(EVV\) - Visit Rejections of HHCS for Customers Enrolled with a Managed Care Organization \(MCO\).](#)

[Practitioner Proposed Rate Adjustments for April 1, 2024 and Claims Reprocessing](#)

If you have not already subscribed to receive email notifications from HFS when new Provider Notices are posted, you may subscribe [here](#). To learn more about the many helpful resources available to healthcare providers, please visit the [HFS Provider website](#).

Molina Healthcare of Illinois has issued a [Rate/Fee Schedule Update](#) for May 2024.



If you have any questions or suggestions for topics that you would like to see covered in future issues of the IPHA Billing Digest,

please email your suggestions and/or requests to [insurancebilling@ipha.com](mailto:insurancebilling@ipha.com).

Thank you!



If you ever have any questions or need any advice, don't hesitate to touch base with me.

Sincerely,

**Phil Talley, IPHA Program Manager**  
[ptalley@ipha.com](mailto:ptalley@ipha.com) | 217-522-5687



[Forward](#)

Illinois Public Health Association  
500 W Monroe St, #1E  
Springfield, IL 62704

As one of the largest affiliates of the American Public Health Association, IPHA is widely recognized as a leader in the field of public health advocacy, health education and promotion.

Join our membership to stay up to date on all public health activity in the state!

[Preferences](#) | [Unsubscribe](#)