



July 18, 2024

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Approves Illinois' 1115 Demonstration Waiver

On July 2, 2024, the federal [Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services \(CMS\)](#) issued an [approval letter](#) for Illinois' request for a five-year extension of the "Illinois Behavioral Health Transformation" section 1115(a) demonstration project. The state also requested to rename the demonstration, "Illinois Healthcare Transformation." CMS approved the name change.

In response to this approval, [Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services \(HFS\)](#) Director, [Elizabeth Whitehorn](#), released a [statement on July 3, 2024](#), stating, "This announcement transforms and advances our state's vision of an equitable and sustainable healthcare delivery system, leveraging Medicaid resources to address root causes of health disparities. We thank federal CMS for recognizing the connection between health-related social needs and healthcare outcomes. The new services will be designed to bring sustainable, community-driven solutions to some of our most vulnerable residents and incorporate non-traditional providers into the Medicaid program."

Director Whitehorn further stated, “In addition to supporting housing, nutrition and transition from incarceration and other institutional settings, CMS approval includes services to address substance use disorder (SUD), employment supports for people with disabilities, and violence prevention and intervention. Some other items contained in the original waiver request continue to be under review by federal CMS. HFS will announce further details later in July.”

“[Section 1115 of the Social Security Act](#) gives the [U.S. Department of Health and Human Services](#) authority to approve demonstration projects that promote the objectives of the Medicaid program. Under this authority, states can be granted additional flexibility to design and improve their Medicaid programs. The full approval document is available on the CMS website: [Illinois Healthcare Transformation | Medicaid.](#)”

To learn more about Section 1115 demonstrations, visit [Medicaid.gov](#). To learn more about the Illinois Healthcare Transformation Section 1115 Demonstration, visit the [HFS Demonstration Waiver Home](#).



Please join us for these upcoming webinars.

Wednesday | August 14 | Noon - 1 PM

Fundamentals of Medical Record Documentation/Billing and Coding

Compliance, presented by [Rosalind Harper](#), CRC-I, CPC, CDEO, CRC, Senior Coding &

Compliance Specialist, [Medical Revenue Cycle Specialists](#).

Medical record documentation is at the center of painting a comprehensive picture of patient care, compliance, and reimbursement for services. Accurately documenting medical services and selecting diagnosis and procedure codes enables healthcare entities to continue care delivery. Participants of this program will learn the fundamentals of documentation rules.

Learning objectives include:

- Summarize purpose, use and best practices for understanding and selecting ICD-10-PCS, CPT and HCPCS codes.
- Review Clinical Documentation Improvement (CDI) best practices.
- Apply medical record documentation and coding best practices within your organization.

To register for this webinar, please click [here](#).

The IPHA Third-Party Billing team hosted the following webinars earlier this month:

June 26

[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 included:

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

The [recording](#) of this webinar and the [slide deck](#) have been archived on the [IPHA Third-Party Billing Webpage](#) for future reference.

July 10

[Denials Management Strategies to Improve Your Bottom Line](#), presented by [Kem Tolliver](#), FACMPR, CPC, CMOM, President & CEO of [Medical Revenue Cycle Specialists](#) (MRCS).

Learning objectives included:

- Examine workflows that lead to denials
- Analyze industry benchmarks used to measure denial prevention success
- Explore tools to implement in a denial prevention and revenue leakage program

The [recording](#) of this webinar and the [slide decks](#) have been archived on the [IPHA Third-Party Billing Webpage](#) for future reference.

The recordings and slide decks for all past IPHA Third-Party Billing webinar trainings are archived on the [IPHA Third-Party Billing Webpage](#) for future reference.



Other Training and Educational Resources

The [Illinois Association of Medicaid Health Plans](#) (IAMHP) will be providing the following webinars:

- Claims **Template Review** August 7, 12:00 – 12:45 PM CST. For more information and to register, click [here](#).
- **Waiver Provider Billing** August 21, 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM CST. For more information and to register, click [here](#).

The [IAMHP 2024 Annual Conference](#) is scheduled for October 21 – 23, 2024, at the Hyatt Lodge in Oakbrook, Illinois. This conference provides valuable opportunities to meet and network with management personnel from HFS and all the Illinois Medicaid Managed Care Organizations (MCOs). Several informative training sessions will be provided. 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](#).

The [Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services](#) (CMS) has opened registration for the **2024 CMS National Training Program (NTP) Workshops**. These in-person and virtual workshops share valuable program information and updates on various aspects of Medicare. Registration for both the in-person and virtual workshops is **FREE!**

IN-PERSON WORKSHOPS

- August 6–8 in Colorado Springs, Colorado
- August 13–15 in Woodbridge, New Jersey

VIRTUAL WORKSHOPS

- [Tuesday, July 23 – “Working Together: Medicare and Social Security”](#)
- [Wednesday, July 24 – “Understanding your Medicare Health Plan Options”](#)
- [Thursday, July 25 – “Medicare & Other Insurance—Who Pays When?”](#)
- [Tuesday, July 30 – “CMS Programs— Current Topics”](#)
- [Wednesday, July 31 – “Using Plan Finder to Find the Medicare Coverage that’s Right for You”](#)
- [Thursday, August 1 – “Helping with Original Medicare Costs: Medigap”](#)



GET TO KNOW THE MCOS

Attend a Meridian Provider Relations Meet and Greet Event Near You! Meridian will be hosting a series of Meet and Greet events at various locations throughout Illinois. These events will be opportunities to connect in person with Meridian leaders from Provider Relations, Network, Claims, Utilization Management, Pharmacy, Quality, and Care Management. Providers are encouraged to come with questions and suggestions. Here are just a few of the upcoming Meet and Greet events:

- [Tuesday, July, 23, Alsip, IL](#)
- [Wednesday, July 24, Peoria, IL](#)
- [Tuesday, July 30, Champaign, IL](#)
- [Tuesday, August 6, Chicago, IL](#)

- [Wednesday, August 7, Oak Brook, IL](#)

To learn more and to register for the Meet and Greet in your area, please click [here](#).

MolinaPalooza '24, Friday, August 9, 2024, 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM, DoubleTree Suites, Downers Grove, IL. Hosted by Molina Healthcare of Illinois, Inc. This event will include opportunities to meet and network with Molina's team, including Provider Relations. The agenda includes various training and educational sessions. Breakfast and lunch will be provided. Click [here](#) to register.

[Molina's Provider Network Team](#) has recently published a [Provider Memo](#) summarizing the support services that their Provider Relations Managers (PRMs) can provide and how to contact the Provider Relations team.

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

[Blue Cross Blue Shield of Illinois](#) has issued a **[Coding Update](#)** for evaluation and management coding that takes effect 9/1/2024. This will affect those that bill E&M codes 99242-99245 and 99252-99255

Blue Cross Blue Shield of Illinois will be providing a Provider Resource Webinar on Contracting and Credentialing on Tuesday, August 13, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM. To learn more and to register please visit their [Webinars and Workshops](#) page.

Blue Cross Community Health Plans (BCCHP) is hosting a [Community Stakeholders Meeting](#) for BCCHP and MMAI

providers on Thursday, August 15, 2024, 1:00 PM – 2:30 PM. This is a hybrid meeting; providers may attend via Zoom or in-person at the Blue Door Neighborhood Center in Morgans Park (11840 S. Marshfield Ave). Click [here](#) to register.

SAVE THE DATE – The next Blue Cross Blue Shield of Illinois **Professional Provider Forum** will be held on Wednesday, August 28, 2024. More information and Registration links will be available on the [Workshops and Webinars](#) page.

MOST VALUABLE RESOURCE



This Month's MVR

The MVR award for July goes to Illinois Association of Medicaid Health Plans (IAMHP) **Well Child Visits and Immunization Tool Kit**. With the help of their member plans, Aetna Better Health of Illinois, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Illinois, CountyCare, Meridian and Molina, the IAMHP team has assembled a Tool Kit to help providers “Recharge Routine Immunizations for children in Illinois.”

Among the items included in the Tool Kit you will find:

- Tools for identifying vaccine hesitancy and building confidence
- Tools for an Outreach Campaign
- Tools for improving access to services
- Links to IAMHP training webinars

This Tool Kit is an essential resource for every provider that routinely provides well child

DID YOU NOTICE?



Did You Notice?

The [Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services \(HFS\)](#) has recently published three new fee schedules:

- The [Practitioner Fee Schedule effective 04/01/2024, updated 07/09/2024](#), applies to various types of practitioners including Local Health Departments (LHD), Encounter Rate Clinics (ERC), Rural Health Centers (RHC), Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC), and more.
- The [Fee Schedule for Licensed Practitioners of the Healing Arts \(LPHA\) effective 04/01/2024, updated 07/11/2024](#), applies to services rendered by a Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW), Licensed Clinical Psychologist (LCP), Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist (LMFT), or Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor (LCPC).
- The [School Based Health Services Fee Schedule effective 04/01/2024, updated 07/11/1024](#), applies to School Based/Linked Health Centers.

To view current and past fee schedules, please visit the HFS [Medicaid Reimbursement](#) page.

HFS has recently issued several important Provider Notices:

- [Customer Public Health Emergency Flexibilities Update](#)
- [Delay in Implementation of Electronic Visit Verification \(EVV\) for the Illinois Department on Aging \(IDoA\)](#)

A correction was made to the [Home Health Fee Schedule](#) effective as of June 1, 2024.

- [Electronic Visit Verification \(EVV\) Updates through May 31, 2024](#)
- [Update Regarding Fee-for-Service Claims for Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor \(LCPC\) and Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist Services](#)

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](#).



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.

Thank you!



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

Sincerely,

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Forward

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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!

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