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November 22, 2024

## It's Our First Anniversary!



The first IPHA monthly **Third-Party Billing Digest** was published in November 2023. This issue marks our first anniversary! We hope you find this publication to be informative and helpful. It is our goal to make your job easier and more productive by bringing you timely and helpful information about all aspects of third-party billing and revenue cycle management (RCM). Please let us know how we are doing. What features have been most useful? What type of information would you like to see more of? Are there specific topics you would like us to cover? Your feedback is essential to help ensure that we are providing the information that you need. **Please email your feedback to:** [insurancebilling@ipha.com](mailto:insurancebilling@ipha.com). We look forward to hearing from you!

## Funds Available for Implementation of an Electronic Health Record (EHR) with Billing Services

IPHA has been awarded a contract by Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) to help

local health departments (LHDs), community-based organizations (CBOs), and other healthcare providers build and enhance their capacity to bill Medicaid, Medicare, and private insurance. The goal of this project is to develop, or enhance, third-party billing capacity through infrastructure development and technical assistance.

**One of the primary objectives of this project is to expand the use of Electronic Health Records (EHR) by LHDs and CBOs. To help achieve this, project funds are available to qualified health care providers for the implementation of an EHR with a comprehensive billing and RCM program. These funds will cover most, if not all, of the costs associated with implementation and training for most organizations.**

This is an extraordinary opportunity for providers that do not currently have an EHR. To qualify for the funding, all health care providers funded by this project must provide and bill for HIV and/or STI services. If your organization does not currently provide or bill for HIV and/or STI services, you may still qualify. IPHA's HIV/STI prevention staff will provide guidance and assistance to help you implement these services at your facility.

To learn more about this program and to find out if your organization qualifies for funding, please contact Third-Party Billing Program Manager, Philip Talley, at 217-522-5687, or [insurancebilling@ipha.com](mailto:insurancebilling@ipha.com).

**Open Enrollment for Medicare and ACA Plans**

The Medicare open enrollment period for 2025 began October 15 and runs through December 7, 2024. Enrollment changes made during this time will take effect on January 1, 2025.

During open enrollment, Medicare eligible beneficiaries can:

- Review Medicare plans available in their area for 2025
- Switch between Medicare Advantage plans
- Switch from traditional Medicare to a Medicare Advantage plan, or vice versa
- Elect or switch between Medicare Part D prescription drug plans

For questions about open enrollment, you may use the [Medicare Open Enrollment Fact Sheet](#) or [Medicare.gov](#).

Open enrollment for plans through Illinois' Health Insurance Marketplace, [GetCoveredIllinois](#) began November 1, 2024, and runs through January 15, 2025. For coverage to become effective on January 1, 2025, enrollment must be completed by December 15, 2024. Coverage for enrollments completed between December 16, 2024, through January 15, 2025, will become effective on February 1, 2025.

For questions about open enrollment for Health Insurance Marketplace plans (also known as ACA plans), you may use the [GetCoveredIllinois Open Enrollment Brochure](#) or the [GetCoveredIllinois Open Enrollment website](#).

Clients that may be eligible for an [Illinois Medicaid](#) plan can use the **Application for Benefits Eligibility** (ABE) at [ABE.Illinois.gov](#). This site allows applicants to determine their eligibility, enroll in a plan, and manage their benefits.

It is in the best interest of every healthcare provider to help their clients stay informed about their healthcare coverage options and enrollment processes. This practice helps to minimize the number of clients that do not have coverage.

### **Billing Medicare Part D**

Still not billing Medicare Part D for vaccines? [TransactRx](#) enables healthcare providers, including local health departments, to bill Medicare Part D for covered vaccines with minimal time and effort. Getting started with TransactRx is quick and easy and will enable your health department to start billing most Medicare Part D plans within a few days. TransactRx may be used alongside any EHR or billing program you may already be using. Click [here](#) to learn more about the TransactRx Medicare Part D Vaccine Billing program.



## **WEBINAR TRAINING**

**Wednesday | December 11 | 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM CST**

The next **Webinar Wednesday** training, **Telehealth Care Delivery and Payment Guidelines** will be presented by [Kem Tolliver](#), President and CEO of [Medical Revenue Cycle Specialists](#) (MRCS) on December 11, 2024,

12:00 PM – 1:00 PM CST. Participants in this session will explore regulatory guidelines for providing telehealth services and review best practices for establishing a sustainable hybrid telehealth model.

Learning Objectives:

- Analyze national telehealth regulations
- Review of telehealth coding guidelines
- Optimize clinic workflows and technology for telehealth delivery

Additional information and registration will be posted on the [IPHA Upcoming Events webpage](#).

### **The IPHA Third-Party Billing team hosted the following in November:**

#### **November 13: Compliance Program Management for Healthcare Organizations**

presented by [Steve Long](#), Sr. Director Practice Management Services, [Medical Revenue Cycle Specialists \(MRCS\)](#).

This training session reviewed the governing bodies within healthcare, key guidelines, and tools to remain compliant and avoid security challenges.

The recording and slide deck for this presentation will be archived on the [IPHA Third-Party Billing Webpage](#).

### **Other Upcoming Webinars**

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

- **Collaborating with Medicaid Health Plans**, Wednesday, December 4, 12:00 – 12:45 PM. This webinar is designed to provide guidance to Medicaid providers on how to interact with health plan staff and how to escalate when necessary. Learn how health plans handle provider disputes and relationships and how to be successful in collaborating with Medicaid Health Plans. Please register [here](#).
- **How A Claim Becomes An Encounter And Why It Matters**, Wednesday, December 18, 12:00 – 1:00 PM. Do you know the process of how a claim becomes an encounter? The webinar will cover the basic structure and process and why it matters, while pointing out some opportunities for improvement. Please register [here](#).

**MOST VALUABLE RESOURCE** 

**This Month's MVR**



Debra Merchant and Michael Morgan representing Aetna Better Health of Illinois.



Bob Hinchclife and Shawn Williams representing Meridian.



Jennifer Rojas, Senior Community Relations Coordinator for Meridian shared information about YouthCare with

For the second consecutive month, the **IPHA 83<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting & Conference** is our Most Valuable Resource. The conference was held in Springfield on November 19 – 20, 2024. We would like to thank the following Illinois Medicaid MCOs for their generous sponsorship and support:

- [Aetna Better Health of Illinois](#), Gold Sponsors
- [Meridian Health Plans of Illinois](#) (including Meridian's [YouthCare](#) plan), Gold Sponsors
- [Humana](#), Interpreter Services Sponsor

Personnel from each of these MCOs attended the conference while Aetna and Meridian also participated with exhibit booths. It was a great opportunity for billing personnel and other public health professionals to meet and network with representatives from the participating MCOs.



Celi Esquivel, Health Equity Strategy Lead for Humana discusses potential project partnerships with Phil Talley, IPHA's Third-Party Billing Program Manager.



Mike Peth from CDP, Inc. and Siri Kumar from ezEMRx shared information about their public health focused EHR and Revenue Cycle Management services.



Scott Dunnewind from CHAMP Software shared information about their Community Health EHR Solution.

Bronze Sponsors, [CDP, Inc.](#) and [ezEMRx](#) provided valuable information related to their third-party billing and electronic health records.

[Champ Software](#) had an exhibit booth sharing information about their Community Health EHR Solution.

In the U.S. healthcare system, third-party payers are an essential partner that all healthcare providers must rely on for support. So, it is imperative for providers to build rapport with colleagues at each of the third-party payers that serve their communities. Participation in conferences such as IPHA's Annual Meeting & Conference, and the [IAMHP Annual](#)

Conference is vitally important because it provides public health professionals with valuable opportunities to build your network of contacts with third-party payers. Being familiar with these contacts and building rapport will prove to be very helpful.

## DID YOU NOTICE?



HFS has recently issued several important Provider Notices:

- [Practitioner Fee Schedule Effective 07/01/2024 Updated 11/18/2024](#)
- [Provider Revalidation Reminder – First Cycle Ending November 30, 2024](#)
- [Electronic Visit Verification \(EVV\) October 2024 Updates](#)
- [Increase in Age Limit for Diabetes Prevention and Management Programs Effective November 1, 2024](#)
- [Respiratory Syncytial Virus \(RSV\) Prevention Beyfortus and Synagis](#)
- [Electronic Visit Verification \(EVV\) Requirements for Medicare and Medicaid Alignment Initiative \(MMAI\) Home Health Care Services \(HHCS\)](#)
- [Corrections to Sub-Clinical Behavioral Health Professional Services in Federally Qualified Health Centers and Rural Health Clinics Effective January 1, 2024](#)
- [Medicaid Provider Revalidation](#)

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](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.

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