



HFS

**Illinois Department of
Healthcare and Family Services**



JB Pritzker, Governor

Elizabeth M. Whitehorn, Director

201 South Grand Avenue East, Springfield, Illinois 62763

Telephone: +1 217-782-1200, TTY: +1 800-526-5812

January 9, 2026

Nancy Wohlhart, CEO
Blue Cross Community Health Plans

RE: Blue Cross HCI Billing Concern Ad-Hoc Sanction

Dear Ms. Wohlhart:

This letter serves as written notification to Blue Cross Community Health Plans (Blue Cross) of sanction pursuant to Section 7.16.3 of the Contract for Furnishing Health Services by a Managed Care Organization between the Department of Healthcare and Family Services (“Department”) and Blue Cross.

Blue Cross failed to timely respond to the Department’s ad-hoc request issued on Thursday, December 18, 2025, at 10:28 AM, under the email title of “Blue Cross-Non Medical Issue-Sunset NH.” This ad-hoc request required Blue Cross to assist a provider with their billing concerns and update the Department by COB Monday, December 22, 2025. Blue Cross did not request an extension to the ad-hoc due date and did not provide a response until Monday, December 29, 2025. As such, the Department is sanctioning Blue Cross \$5,000. Blue Cross is to issue an electronic payment to the Department, by either ACH or Wire Transfer, no later than Friday, January 30, 2026. The electronic payment shall include the following fields for payment identification and tracking purposes by the Department:

ORIG CO NAME: **Health Care Service Corp**

ORIG ID: **16124001**

ENTRY DESCRIPTOR: this is to be left blank

ENTRY CLASS: **CCD**

TRACE NO: **Bank Information**

ENTRY DATE: **yymmdd**

IND ID NO: **Bank Information**

IND NAME: **Health Care Service Corp**

REMARK: **Billing Concern Ad-Hoc Sanct.**

ORIG BANK: **Bank Name**

*The information highlighted in yellow is specific to the Department and payment detail requirements, and shall not be changed or modified by the MCO.

*The information in gray is the banking information.

If you have any questions regarding this notification, please contact your HFS Account Management team Jessica Pickens at Jessica.Pickens@illinois.gov, or Leigh Anne Ochs at Leigh.A.Ochs@illinois.gov.

Sincerely,

Helena Lefkow, Deputy Administrator, Managed Care Performance
Division of Medical Programs

cc: Courtney Boileau, Steven Kesten, Lilia Velazquez, Amy Roberts, Keshonna Lones, Leigh Anne Ochs, Stephanie Hunter, Jessica Pickens, Rich Allen, Amy Roberts, Adam Lewis