

**PROPOSED CHANGES IN METHODS AND STANDARDS  
FOR ESTABLISHING MEDICAL ASSISTANCE PAYMENT RATES**

**STATE OF ILLINOIS  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTHCARE AND FAMILY SERVICES**

The Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services (HFS) is proposing changes in the methods and standards of payment to providers. The proposed changes become effective for dates of service on or after January 1, 2024.

Pursuant to [Public Act 103-102](#) the Department shall increase the base rate of reimbursement for both base charges and mileage charges for medical transportation services provided by means of an air ambulance to a level not lower than 50% of the Medicare ambulance fee schedule rates, by designated Medicare locality, in effect on January 1, 2023.

In addition, effective January 1, 2024 through June 30, 2026, the Department shall increase the base rate of reimbursement for both base charges and mileage charges for ground ambulance service providers not participating in the Ground Emergency Medical Transportation (GEMT) Program for medical transportation services provided by means of a ground ambulance to a level not lower than 140% of the base rate in effect as of January 1, 2023.

These proposed changes will increase expenditures by approximately \$43.8 million annually for services provided through fee-for-service or through managed care organizations. The proposed change is subject to approval by the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services and may be modified or revised during the approval process.

Any interested party may submit questions or comments concerning these proposed changes in reimbursement methods and standards. All questions or comments must be submitted in writing within thirty (30) days of the publication date of this notice and addressed to:

Bureau of Program and Policy Coordination  
Division of Medical Programs  
Healthcare and Family Services  
201 South Grand Avenue East  
Springfield, IL 62763-0001  
E-mail address: [HFS.BPPC@illinois.gov](mailto:HFS.BPPC@illinois.gov)

This notice may be viewed at the DHS local offices (except in Cook County). In Cook County, the notice may be reviewed at the Office of the Director, Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services, 401 South Clinton Street, 1st Floor, Chicago, Illinois. Comments received regarding this notice shall be published on the HFS web site at <http://www.illinois.gov/hfs/info/legal/PublicNotices/Pages/>

This notice is being provided in accordance with federal requirements found at 42 *CFR* 447.205.