

From: [George Buckley](#)
To: [HFS.BPPC](#)
Subject: [External] ILOTA Medicaid Rate Support Letter
Date: Monday, September 25, 2023 2:30:44 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[ILOTA Medicaid rate support letter 092523.pdf](#)

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

Please see the attached letter signed by Beverly Menninger, President of the Illinois Occupational Therapy Association (ILOTA).

Thank you,

George

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September 25, 2023

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201 South Grand Avenue East
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The Illinois Occupational Therapy Association, with over 1,250 members and representing the interests of over 11,000 Illinois occupational therapy practitioners, educators, and researchers, supports the 14.2% increase for outpatient therapy Medicaid services. While we appreciate and support this increase, we recognize that we will continue to provide services to most of our Medicaid clients at a deficit, which continues to restrict access to therapy services. We support ongoing efforts to bring Medicaid payment rates closer to rates that would cover the costs of providing outpatient therapy services.

Currently, Medicaid recipients are limited to receiving outpatient therapy services almost exclusively at hospital-based programs due to inadequate reimbursement rates, resulting in a lack of access or delayed access to rehabilitation services. A recent survey from Illinois providers of occupational therapy services revealed that nearly half of the providers had wait lists for services and of those, nearly 10% had waiting lists longer than six months for Medicaid recipients. Early rehabilitation has demonstrated better outcomes and decreased long- and short-term consequences, including falls and institutionalization. Timely access to care can lead to a more rapid recovery with the potential for a recipient to return to work sooner, care for themselves or family members, and require less medical care in the future.

We strongly support this payment increase which can lead to greater equity for all recipients of occupational therapy. We look forward to formally collaborating with the agency to address the ongoing changes and solutions needed to increase access to medically necessary therapy services.

Sincerely,

Beverly Menninger, MA, OTR/L

Beverly Menninger, MA, OTR/L
President, Illinois Occupational Therapy Association

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