

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

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

Date: November 20, 2025

The Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services (HFS) is proposing changes in the methods and standards by which the Department will reimburse providers. The proposed change is effective for dates of service on or after January 1, 2026.

The Department is proposing to expand the definition of a Critical Access Pharmacy to include independent pharmacies situated within a Medically Underserved Area (MUA), as designated by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). The Department is also proposing to increase the dispensing fee for Critical Access Pharmacies to \$21.05.

These proposed changes will result in an estimated annual increase in Medicaid fee-for-service liability of \$550,000. The proposed change is subject to approval by the federal Centers for Medicare & 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. Comments received regarding this notice shall be published on the HFS web site at <https://hfs.illinois.gov/info/legal/publicnotices.html>. It is recommended to include the name of the public notice in the subject line. 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

The 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.

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