

**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 or Department) is proposing a change in the methods and standards by which the Department will reimburse providers for costs associated with the administration of the COVID-19 vaccine. The proposed change is effective for dates of service on or after January 1, 2024, and is addressed below.

The Department is proposing the follow reimbursement updates related to the administration of COVID-19 vaccines:

- For COVID-19 vaccines provided to children eligible under the Vaccines for Children (VFC) program, physicians, advance practice nurses, physician assistants, local health departments, and school-based health clinics will be reimbursed a vaccine administration fee of \$16.71. For all other customers, reimbursement to the practitioner for the expense of administering the COVID-19 vaccine is included in the reimbursement for the office visit, consistent with Department billing policies.
- For COVID-19 vaccines provided to children eligible under the VFC program, Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs), Rural Health Clinics (RHCs) and Encounter Rate Clinics (ERCs) will be reimbursed a vaccine administration fee of \$16.71. For all other customers, FQHCs, RHCs, and ERCs will be reimbursed a professional dispensing fee of \$8.85 and a vaccine administration fee of \$6.40. The professional dispensing and vaccine administration fees are separate from any encounter payment the FQHC, RHC, or ERC may receive.
- All pharmacies providing the COVID-19 vaccine will be reimbursed a \$6.40 vaccine administration fee.
- Critical Access Pharmacies will be reimbursed a professional dispensing fee of \$15.55. All other pharmacies will be reimbursed a professional dispensing fee of \$8.85.

These changes are intended to better align reimbursement to providers for the administration of the COVID-19 vaccine with the Department's reimbursement methodologies for other vaccines. The rate for the COVID-19 vaccine for all provider types will continue to be set at the Medicare rate.

The Department estimates these changes will result in annual savings of \$1.3 million. 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 and clarification may be reviewed at the Office of the Director, Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services, 401 South Clinton Street, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Chicago, Illinois.

Comments received regarding this notice shall be published on the HFS web site at:

<https://hfs.illinois.gov/info/legal/publicnotices.html>

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