

**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 a change 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, 2017 and is addressed below.

As an ongoing effort to provide access to care and quality services, the Department is proposing to begin fee-for-service reimbursement for certain services provided by a Licensed Clinical Psychologist (LCP) or a Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW). These services include mental health services such as psychiatric diagnostic evaluations, psychotherapy and counseling.

The proposed reimbursement rate for LCP and LCSW services will be at 75% of the physician rate. The reimbursement changes will apply to services personally rendered by an LCP or LCSW. These proposed changes will increase expenditures by approximately \$12.5 million annually based on current utilization patterns.

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.bpra@illinois.gov](mailto:HFS.bpra@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 <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.