



Illinois Health and Hospital Association

# Daily Briefing

## **Calendar of Events**

Nov. 15: [Illinois Medicaid MCO Transformation](#), East Peoria

Nov. 15: [IHA Clinical Services Emergency Preparedness Virtual Exercise](#)

## **Recent Issues**

## **IHA Daily e-Clips**

## **IHA Website**

## **Questions or Comments?**

Contact us at:

[DailyBriefing@team-ih.org](mailto:DailyBriefing@team-ih.org)



## **Monday, November 13, 2017**

[President Taps Alex Azar for HHS Secretary](#)  
[IHA Update: HFS Notices and Notifications](#)  
[Register Now: Diabetes Education Program Workshop](#)  
[Health Plan Cost vs. Individual Mandate Penalty](#)

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### **President Taps Alex Azar for HHS Secretary**

Earlier today, President Trump announced via [Twitter](#) that he is nominating Alex Azar as secretary of the U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services (HHS), tweeting, "Happy to announce, I am nominating Alex Azar to be the next HHS Secretary. He will be a star for better healthcare and lower drug prices!"

The nomination follows former Secretary Tom Price's resignation in late September. Until earlier this year, Azar served as president of pharmaceutical company Lilly USA. Prior to that, he was general counsel and then deputy secretary of HHS under former President George W. Bush.

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### **IHA Update: HFS Notices and Notifications**

In recent weeks, the Illinois Dept. of Healthcare and Family Services (HFS) has released several notices and notifications for providers. These communications include updates to:

- The Medicaid managed care program;
- ICD-10 diagnosis and procedure coding subject to inpatient utilization review;
- Medicaid hospice rates for federal fiscal year 2018;
- The Medicaid reimbursement rate for services rendered by certified community mental health centers; and
- The practitioner fee schedule.

For detailed information about these updates, see [IHA's memo](#).

Staff contacts: [Jo Ann Spoor](#), [Paula Dillon](#), [Lia Daniels](#)

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### **Register Now: Diabetes Education Program Workshop**

The final sessions of IHA's [Building a Successful Diabetes Education Program](#) will be held on Nov. 28-29 at Fairfield Inn & Suites in Mount Vernon and Dec. 5-6 at IHA's Naperville office. The following professionals are invited to attend the two-day

workshop to learn about strategies to enhance their organizations' educational offerings:

- Diabetes educators;
- Health educators;
- Coaches;
- Case managers;
- Care coordinators;
- Healthcare administrators; and
- Managers and directors of outpatient diabetes self-management training, medical nutrition therapy, obesity counseling programs, and related services.

There is no cost for the training. Funding for this program was provided by the Illinois Dept. of Public Health State Public Health Actions to Prevent and Control Diabetes, Heart Disease, Obesity and Associated Risk Factors and Promote School Health. There is a \$20 charge for breakfast, snacks and beverages. Lunch is not provided. [Click here](#) to register.

Staff contact: [Abby Radcliffe](#)

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### **Health Plan Cost vs. Individual Mandate Penalty**

According to a recent Kaiser Family Foundation (KFF) [analysis](#), more than half (54 percent or 5.9 million) of the 10.7 million people who are uninsured and eligible to purchase an Affordable Care Act marketplace plan in 2018 could pay less in premiums for health insurance than they would owe as an individual mandate tax penalty for lacking coverage. Furthermore, the analysis finds that about 4.5 million of those individuals could obtain a bronze-level plan at no cost in 2018, after taking into account income-related premium tax credits. Among those eligible for premium subsidies, KFF notes that 70 percent could pay less in premiums than what they would owe as a tax penalty for lacking coverage.

For more information, see KFF's [press release](#). [Click here](#) to access KFF's new Individual Mandate Penalty Calculator, which allows consumers to compare their estimated 2018 individual mandate penalty with the cost of marketplace insurance in their area.

Open enrollment for the ACA Marketplace continues through Dec. 15 (Illinois ACA Marketplace: <https://getcovered.illinois.gov/en>). A calendar of upcoming Get Covered Illinois enrollment and education events is available [here](#).