



# Illinois Insurance Facts

Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation  
Division of Insurance

## Mental Health FAQs

### Clarification of Public Acts 94-0906 and 94-0921

Revised July  
2007

- 1) **Pursuant to 215 ILCS 5/370c (b)(4)(A)(ii), do the original 35 visits (now 60 per P.A. 94-0921 effective June 26, 2006) for outpatient treatment include speech therapy?**

Yes, to the extent that such therapy is determined to be medically necessary (see 215 ILCS 5/370c(b)(4)(A)).

- 2) **As enacted by P.A. 94-0906 effective January 1, 2007, how do the additional 20 outpatient visits, as specified in 215 ILCS 5/370c(b)(4)(A)(iii), coordinate with the 60 outpatient visits in 215 ILCS 5/370c(b)(4)(A)(ii)?**

Public Act 94-0921 establishes 60 annual outpatient visits for the treatment of mental illness, including speech therapy for the treatment of pervasive developmental disorders. Public Act 94-0906 establishes an additional 20 outpatient visits solely for speech therapy for the treatment of pervasive developmental disorders. Together, these Acts anticipate that all 80 outpatient visits may be used for speech therapy if such treatment is medically necessary.

**(Revised July 2007)**

- 3) **P.A. 94-0906 includes a cross reference to the HMO Act, does this mean that 215 ILCS 5/370c replaces the HMO standard for basic health care services in relation to mental health treatment?**

Yes.

- 4) **215 ILCS 5/370c(a)(1) establishes treatment for mental health disorders other than those defined as "serious mental illness" and establishes that such coverage be provided on a "shall offer" basis to the applicant or group policyholder. Does this requirement now apply to HMOs?**

Yes. HMOs are now only required to provide coverage for non-serious mental health treatment on a "shall offer" basis.

- 5) **215 ILCS 5/370c(a)(2) establishes, among other things, that insureds are free to "select the physician licensed to practice medicine in all its branches, licensed clinical psychologist, licensed clinical social worker, or licensed clinical professional counselor of his choice to treat..." mental health disorders other than those defined as "serious mental illness." Do HMOs now have to provide access to such providers even when they are not in the HMO's network?**

Yes. When employers accept the offer for such coverage, choice of provider for treatment must be up to the insured regardless of the provider's network affiliation or lack thereof

provided the other conditions established by 215 ILCS 5/370c(a)(2) are met. However, as established by 215 ILCS 5/370c(a)(1), the insured may be required to pay up to 50% of expenses incurred as a result of the treatment or services, and the annual benefit limit may be limited to the lesser of \$10,000 or 25% of the lifetime policy limit.

**6) 215 ILCS 5/370c (b)(1) exempts employers with 50 or fewer employees from the required mandates for serious mental illness. Does this apply to HMO coverage?**

Yes. Employers with 50 or fewer employees are not required to provide coverage for serious mental illness established by 215 ILCS 5/370c(b)(1) even when they purchase coverage through HMOs. This standard is only applicable to employer groups.

**7) What are the effective dates of the changes contained in these two Public Acts?**

Public Act 94-0921, which increases the number of outpatient visits for serious mental illness from 35 to 60 was effective June 26, 2006. The changes will be reflected in policies as they are delivered, issued, or renewed after that date.

Public Act 94-0906, which added an additional 20 visits for speech therapy for pervasive developmental disorders and extended applicability of the law to HMOs is effective January 1, 2007.

The text of Public Act 094-0906 and Public Act 094-0921 can be viewed on the following pages.

**Public Act 094-0906**

**HB4125 Enrolled LRB094 13838 LJB 48711 b**

AN ACT concerning insurance.

**Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois, represented in the General Assembly:**

Section 5. The Illinois Insurance Code is amended by changing Section 370c as follows:

(215 ILCS 5/370c) (from Ch. 73, par. 982c)  
Sec. 370c. Mental and emotional disorders.

(a) (1) On and after the effective date of this Section, every insurer which delivers, issues for delivery or renews or modifies group A&H policies providing coverage for hospital or medical treatment or services for illness on an expense-incurred basis shall offer to the applicant or group policyholder subject to the insurers standards of insurability, coverage for reasonable and necessary treatment and services for mental, emotional or nervous disorders or conditions, other than serious mental illnesses as defined in item (2) of subsection (b), up to the limits provided in the policy for other disorders or conditions, except (i) the insured may be required to pay up to 50% of expenses incurred as a result of the treatment or services, and (ii) the annual benefit limit may be limited to the lesser of \$10,000 or 25% of the lifetime policy limit.

(2) Each insured that is covered for mental, emotional or nervous disorders or conditions shall be free to select the physician licensed to practice medicine in all its branches, licensed clinical psychologist, licensed clinical social worker, or licensed clinical professional counselor of his choice to treat such disorders, and the insurer shall pay the covered charges of such physician licensed to practice medicine in all its branches, licensed clinical psychologist, licensed clinical social worker, or licensed clinical professional counselor up to the limits of coverage, provided (i) the disorder or condition treated is covered by the policy, and (ii) the physician, licensed psychologist, licensed clinical social worker, or licensed clinical professional counselor is authorized to provide said services under the statutes of this State and in accordance with accepted principles of his profession.

(3) Insofar as this Section applies solely to licensed clinical social workers and licensed clinical professional counselors, those persons who may provide services to individuals shall do so after the licensed clinical social worker or licensed clinical professional counselor has informed the patient of the desirability of the patient conferring with the patient's primary care physician and the licensed clinical social worker or licensed clinical professional counselor has provided written notification to the patient's primary care physician, if any, that services are being provided to the patient. That notification may, however, be waived by the patient on a written form. Those forms shall be retained by the licensed clinical social worker or licensed clinical professional counselor for a period of not less than 5 years.

(b) (1) An insurer that provides coverage for hospital or medical expenses under a group policy of accident and health insurance or health care plan amended, delivered, issued, or renewed after the effective date of this amendatory Act of the 92nd General Assembly shall provide coverage under the policy for treatment of serious mental illness under the same terms and conditions as coverage for hospital or medical expenses related to other illnesses and diseases. The coverage required under this Section must provide for same durational limits, amount limits, deductibles, and co-insurance requirements for serious mental illness as are provided for other illnesses and diseases. This subsection does not apply to coverage provided to employees by employers who have 50 or fewer employees.

(2) "Serious mental illness" means the following psychiatric illnesses as defined in the most current edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual (DSM) published by the American Psychiatric Association:

- (A) schizophrenia;
- (B) paranoid and other psychotic disorders;
- (C) bipolar disorders (hypomanic, manic, depressive, and mixed);
- (D) major depressive disorders (single episode or recurrent);
- (E) schizoaffective disorders (bipolar or depressive);
- (F) pervasive developmental disorders;
- (G) obsessive-compulsive disorders;
- (H) depression in childhood and adolescence;
- (I) panic disorder; and
- (J) post-traumatic stress disorders (acute, chronic, or with delayed onset).

(3) Upon request of the reimbursing insurer, a provider of treatment of serious mental illness shall furnish medical records or other necessary data that substantiate that initial or continued treatment is at all times medically necessary. An insurer shall provide a mechanism for the timely review by a provider holding the same license and practicing in the same specialty as the patient's provider, who is unaffiliated with the insurer, jointly selected by the patient (or the patient's next of kin or legal representative if the patient is unable to act for himself or herself), the patient's provider, and the insurer in the event of a dispute between the insurer and patient's provider regarding the medical necessity of a treatment proposed by a patient's provider. If the reviewing provider determines the treatment to be medically necessary, the insurer shall provide reimbursement for the treatment. Future contractual or employment actions by the insurer regarding the patient's provider may not be based on the provider's participation in this procedure. Nothing prevents the insured from agreeing in writing to continue treatment at his or her expense. When making a determination of the medical necessity for a treatment modality for serious mental illness, an insurer must make the determination in a manner that is consistent with the manner used to make that determination with respect to other diseases or illnesses covered under the policy, including an appeals process.

(4) A group health benefit plan:

(A) shall provide coverage based upon medical necessity for the following treatment of mental illness in each calendar year;

(i) 45 days of inpatient treatment; and

(ii) 35 visits for outpatient treatment including group and individual outpatient treatment; and

(iii) for plans or policies delivered, issued for delivery, renewed, or modified after the effective date of this amendatory Act of the 94th General Assembly, 20 additional outpatient visits for speech therapy for treatment of pervasive developmental disorders that will be in addition to speech therapy provided pursuant to item (ii) of this subparagraph (A);

(B) may not include a lifetime limit on the number of days of inpatient treatment or the number of outpatient visits covered under the plan; and

(C) shall include the same amount limits, deductibles, copayments, and coinsurance factors for serious mental illness as for physical illness.

(5) An issuer of a group health benefit plan may not count toward the number of outpatient visits required to be covered under this Section an outpatient visit for the purpose of medication management and

shall cover the outpatient visits under the same terms and conditions as it covers outpatient visits for the treatment of physical illness.

(6) An issuer of a group health benefit plan may provide or offer coverage required under this Section through a managed care plan.

(7) This Section shall not be interpreted to require a group health benefit plan to provide coverage for treatment of:

- (A) an addiction to a controlled substance or cannabis that is used in violation of law; or
- (B) mental illness resulting from the use of a controlled substance or cannabis in violation of law.

(8) (Blank)

(Source: P.A. 94-402, eff. 8-2-05; P.A. 94-584, eff. 8-15-05; revised 8-19-05.)

Section 10. The Health Maintenance Organization Act is amended by changing Section 5-3 as follows:

(215 ILCS 125/5-3) (from Ch. 111 1/2, par. 1411.2)  
Sec. 5-3. Insurance Code provisions.

(a) Health Maintenance Organizations shall be subject to the provisions of Sections 133, 134, 137, 140, 141.1, 141.2, 141.3, 143, 143c, 147, 148, 149, 151, 152, 153, 154, 154.5, 154.6, 154.7, 154.8, 155.04, 355.2, 356m, 356v, 356w, 356x, 356y, 356z.2, 356z.4, 356z.5, 356z.6, 364.01, 367.2, 367.2-5, 367i, 368a, 368b, 368c, 368d, 368e, 370c, 401, 401.1, 402, 403, 403A, 408, 408.2, 409, 412, 444, and 444.1, paragraph (c) of subsection (2) of Section 367, and Articles IIA, VIII 1/2, XII, XII 1/2, XIII, XIII 1/2, XXV, and XXVI of the Illinois Insurance Code.

(b) For purposes of the Illinois Insurance Code, except for Sections 444 and 444.1 and Articles XIII and XIII 1/2, Health Maintenance Organizations in the following categories are deemed to be "domestic companies":

(1) a corporation authorized under the Dental Service Plan Act or the Voluntary Health Services Plans Act;

(2) a corporation organized under the laws of this State; or

(3) a corporation organized under the laws of another state, 30% or more of the enrollees of which are residents of this State, except a corporation subject to substantially the same requirements in its state of organization as is a "domestic company" under Article VIII 1/2 of the Illinois Insurance Code.

(c) In considering the merger, consolidation, or other acquisition of control of a Health Maintenance Organization pursuant to Article VIII 1/2 of the Illinois Insurance Code,

(1) the Director shall give primary consideration to the continuation of benefits to enrollees and the financial conditions of the acquired Health Maintenance Organization after the merger, consolidation, or other acquisition of control takes effect;

(2)(i) the criteria specified in subsection (1)(b) of Section 131.8 of the Illinois Insurance Code shall not apply and (ii) the Director, in making his determination with respect to the merger,

consolidation, or other acquisition of control, need not take into account the effect on competition of the merger, consolidation, or other acquisition of control;

(3) the Director shall have the power to require the following information:

(A) certification by an independent actuary of the adequacy of the reserves of the Health Maintenance Organization sought to be acquired;

(B) pro forma financial statements reflecting the combined balance sheets of the acquiring company and the Health Maintenance Organization sought to be acquired as of the end of the preceding year and as of a date 90 days prior to the acquisition, as well as pro forma financial statements reflecting projected combined operation for a period of 2 years;

(C) a pro forma business plan detailing an acquiring party's plans with respect to the operation of the Health Maintenance Organization sought to be acquired for a period of not less than 3 years; and

(D) such other information as the Director shall require.

(d) The provisions of Article VIII 1/2 of the Illinois Insurance Code and this Section 5-3 shall apply to the sale by any health maintenance organization of greater than 10% of its enrollee population (including without limitation the health maintenance organization's right, title, and interest in and to its health care certificates).

(e) In considering any management contract or service agreement subject to Section 141.1 of the Illinois Insurance Code, the Director (i) shall, in addition to the criteria specified in Section 141.2 of the Illinois Insurance Code, take into account the effect of the management contract or service agreement on the continuation of benefits to enrollees and the financial condition of the health maintenance organization to be managed or serviced, and (ii) need not take into account the effect of the management contract or service agreement on competition.

(f) Except for small employer groups as defined in the Small Employer Rating, Renewability and Portability Health Insurance Act and except for medicare supplement policies as defined in Section 363 of the Illinois Insurance Code, a Health Maintenance Organization may by contract agree with a group or other enrollment unit to effect refunds or charge additional premiums under the following terms and conditions:

(i) the amount of, and other terms and conditions with respect to, the refund or additional premium are set forth in the group or enrollment unit contract agreed in advance of the period for which a refund is to be paid or additional premium is to be charged (which period shall not be less than one year); and

(ii) the amount of the refund or additional premium shall not exceed 20% of the Health Maintenance Organization's profitable or unprofitable experience with respect to the group or other enrollment unit for the period (and, for purposes of a refund or additional premium, the profitable or unprofitable experience shall be calculated taking into account a pro rata share of the Health Maintenance Organization's administrative and marketing expenses, but shall not include any refund to be made or additional premium to be paid pursuant to this subsection (f)). The Health Maintenance Organization and the group or enrollment unit may agree that the profitable or unprofitable experience may be calculated taking into account the refund period and the immediately preceding 2 plan years.

The Health Maintenance Organization shall include a statement in the evidence of coverage issued to each enrollee describing the possibility of a refund or additional premium, and upon request of any group or enrollment unit, provide to the group or enrollment unit a description of the method used to calculate (1) the Health Maintenance Organization's profitable experience with respect to the group or enrollment unit and the resulting refund to the group or enrollment unit or (2) the Health Maintenance Organization's unprofitable

experience with respect to the group or enrollment unit and the resulting additional premium to be paid by the group or enrollment unit.

In no event shall the Illinois Health Maintenance Organization Guaranty Association be liable to pay any contractual obligation of an insolvent organization to pay any refund authorized under this Section. (Source: P.A. 92-764, eff. 1-1-03; 93-102, eff. 1-1-04; 93-261, eff. 1-1-04; 93-477, eff. 8-8-03; 93-529, eff. 8-14-03; 93-853, eff. 1-1-05; 93-1000, eff. 1-1-05; revised 10-14-04.)

**Effective Date: 1/1/2007**

**Public Act 094-0921**

**HB4202**

AN ACT concerning insurance.

**Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois, represented in the General Assembly:**

Section 5. The Illinois Insurance Code is amended by changing Section 370c as follows:

(215 ILCS 5/370c) (from Ch. 73, par. 982c)

Sec. 370c. Mental and emotional disorders.

(a)(1) On and after the effective date of this Section, every insurer which delivers, issues for delivery or renews or modifies group A&H policies providing coverage for hospital or medical treatment or services for illness on an expense-incurred basis shall offer to the applicant or group policyholder subject to the insurers standards of insurability, coverage for reasonable and necessary treatment and services for mental, emotional or nervous disorders or conditions, other than serious mental illnesses as defined in item (2) of subsection (b), up to the limits provided in the policy for other disorders or conditions, except (i) the insured may be required to pay up to 50% of expenses incurred as a result of the treatment or services, and (ii) the annual benefit limit may be limited to the lesser of \$10,000 or 25% of the lifetime policy limit.

(2) Each insured that is covered for mental, emotional or nervous disorders or conditions shall be free to select the physician licensed to practice medicine in all its branches, licensed clinical psychologist, licensed clinical social worker, or licensed clinical professional counselor of his choice to treat such disorders, and the insurer shall pay the covered charges of such physician licensed to practice medicine in all its branches, licensed clinical psychologist, licensed clinical social worker, or licensed clinical professional counselor up to the limits of coverage, provided (i) the disorder or condition treated is covered by the policy, and (ii) the physician, licensed psychologist, licensed clinical social worker, or licensed clinical professional counselor is authorized to provide said services under the statutes of this State and in accordance with accepted principles of his profession.

(3) Insofar as this Section applies solely to licensed clinical social workers and licensed clinical professional counselors, those persons who may provide services to individuals shall do so after the licensed clinical social worker or licensed clinical professional counselor has informed the patient of the desirability of the patient conferring with the patient's primary care physician and the licensed clinical social worker or licensed clinical professional counselor has provided written notification to the patient's primary care physician, if any, that services are being provided to the patient. That notification may, however, be waived by the patient on a written form. Those forms shall be retained by the licensed clinical social worker or licensed clinical professional counselor for a period of not less than 5 years.

(b) (1) An insurer that provides coverage for hospital or medical expenses under a group policy of accident and health insurance or health care plan amended, delivered, issued, or renewed after the effective date of this amendatory Act of the 92nd General Assembly shall provide coverage under the policy for treatment of serious mental illness under the same terms and conditions as coverage for hospital or medical expenses related to other illnesses and diseases. The coverage required under this Section must provide for same durational limits, amount limits, deductibles, and co-insurance requirements for serious mental illness as

are provided for other illnesses and diseases. This subsection does not apply to coverage provided to employees by employers who have 50 or fewer employees.

(2) "Serious mental illness" means the following psychiatric illnesses as defined in the most current edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual (DSM) published by the American Psychiatric Association:

- (A) schizophrenia;
- (B) paranoid and other psychotic disorders;
- (C) bipolar disorders (hypomanic, manic, depressive, and mixed);
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- (G) obsessive-compulsive disorders;
- (H) depression in childhood and adolescence;
- (I) panic disorder; and
- (J) post-traumatic stress disorders (acute, chronic, or with delayed onset).

(3) Upon request of the reimbursing insurer, a provider of treatment of serious mental illness shall furnish medical records or other necessary data that substantiate that initial or continued treatment is at all times medically necessary. An insurer shall provide a mechanism for the timely review by a provider holding the same license and practicing in the same specialty as the patient's provider, who is unaffiliated with the insurer, jointly selected by the patient (or the patient's next of kin or legal representative if the patient is unable to act for himself or herself), the patient's provider, and the insurer in the event of a dispute between the insurer and patient's provider regarding the medical necessity of a treatment proposed by a patient's provider. If the reviewing provider determines the treatment to be medically necessary, the insurer shall provide reimbursement for the treatment. Future contractual or employment actions by the insurer regarding the patient's provider may not be based on the provider's participation in this procedure. Nothing prevents the insured from agreeing in writing to continue treatment at his or her expense. When making a determination of the medical necessity for a treatment modality for serious mental illness, an insurer must make the determination in a manner that is consistent with the manner used to make that determination with respect to other diseases or illnesses covered under the policy, including an appeals process.

(4) A group health benefit plan:

(A) shall provide coverage based upon medical necessity for the following treatment of mental illness in each calendar year;

(i) 45 days of inpatient treatment; and

(ii) beginning on the effective date of this amendatory Act of the 94th General Assembly, 60 35-visits for outpatient treatment including group and individual outpatient treatment;

(B) may not include a lifetime limit on the number of days of inpatient treatment or the number of outpatient visits covered under the plan; and

(C) shall include the same amount limits, deductibles, copayments, and coinsurance factors for serious mental illness as for physical illness.

(5) An issuer of a group health benefit plan may not count toward the number of outpatient visits required to be covered under this Section an outpatient visit for the purpose of medication management and shall cover the outpatient visits under the same terms and conditions as it covers outpatient visits for the treatment of physical illness.

(6) An issuer of a group health benefit plan may provide or offer coverage required under this Section through a managed care plan.

(7) This Section shall not be interpreted to require a group health benefit plan to provide coverage for treatment of:

- (A) an addiction to a controlled substance or cannabis that is used in violation of law; or
- (B) mental illness resulting from the use of a controlled substance or cannabis in violation of law.

(8) (Blank).

(Source: P.A. 94-402, eff. 8-2-05; P.A. 94-584, eff. 8-15-05; revised 8-19-05.)

Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon becoming law.

**Effective Date: 6/26/2006**