

The Lincoln Log

American Association of Healthcare Administrative Management Illinois Newsletter



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National AAHAM Journal Award!!



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IL AAHAM

Lincoln Log

Editor



Joshua Johnson, CRCP-I

IL AAHAM 2nd Vice-President

The LINCOLN LOG magazine is published four times annually by the AAHAM ILLINOIS CHAPTER to update the membership regarding chapter and national activities as well as to provide information useful to health care administrative professionals. Opinions expressed in articles or features are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Illinois Chapter, AAHAM, the NATIONAL AAHAM organization or the editor. Reproduction and/or use of the format or content of this publication without the expressed permission of the author(s) or the editor is prohibited. © Copyright 2007.





The Illinois AAHAM Board of Directors would like to thank each one of you for your membership, support and participation!!

We look forward to another year of Awesome Education and Networking opportunities!

Doris, Kenny, Chris, Josh, Nancy, Tera, Julie, Maria, Rena, Dave, Vanessa, and CJ



PRESIDENT'S

Message



*Kenny Koerner, CRCE
IL Chapter President*

I just returned from the Illinois/ICAHN joint meeting that was held June 17th in Springfield. For me and the rest of the board, this is a great day and a half reward for all the hard work and efforts that take place behind the scenes in order to make these educational sessions a success. We begin with a board meeting the night before the educational session. I know I am always energized after attending the board meeting when I get a chance to hear all of the great work that our board of directors is doing on your behalf throughout the year. On Wednesday, the joint educational session that we had with ICAHN provided top notch information and networking opportunities. I know that I made numerous contacts with other providers that I had not met previously, and was able to share information with them at the meeting and will be able to moving forward as well. To me, that's what Illinois AAHAM is all about...

I am going to take my message in this Lincoln Log to plug the upcoming local and national AAHAM elections. Illinois AAHAM is accepting nominations through the end of June for our new board of directors, whose term will be run 2016-2017. Please contact me by the end of June if you are interested in running for a board position. I think you will find the work and extra time needed is certainly nothing compared to the rewards you will receive from Illinois AAHAM. For those of you that think you might not be ready to commit to the board of directors, but still want to become more involved with Illinois AAHAM, please reach out to me and I will make sure we find you a committee that you can become more involved with. At the national level, the national election is going to take place from June 29th through August 14th. Your voting information for the national election will be emailed to you on June 29th. At the national level, you will see 3 Illinois AAHAM members on the national ballot. I hope that you are able to support these candidates as they strive to make our national organization even stronger than it already is. Whether it is the local Illinois election, or the national AAHAM election, I just ask that each of you take the 5 minutes that it takes to vote. Regardless as to who you wish to vote for, I'd love to see a strong representation from Illinois for both of these ballots.

Fall education is in beautiful Galena, Illinois, at the Eagle Ridge Resort on September 10 and 11. Wednesday, September 10th is the annual Charles Garvin Golf Outing. Thursday, September 11 will be our educational session. We are still finalizing the education but will be getting a flier out on this very shortly. We were able to secure fantastic rates for golf and for lodging, and the lodging rates will run through that Friday after the meeting, so if you are interested in staying for a long weekend, please make plans to do so...

Hope to see you all in Galena...Have a great summer!

Kenny





Join us for an IL AAHAM Webinar with

Jodie Edmonds!

June 26, 2015

11:30am-12:30pm

During this enlightening Webinar, Jodie will educate us on how uninsured Illinoisans have new options for health coverage and how IL Medicaid coverage has changed!!

Medical Assistance Categories and Programs

HFS Medical Cards/Eligibility Verification

Affordable Care Act Initiatives

Medicaid Redetermination Project

Managed Care Organizations and Integrated Care Program

Medicaid Reform and Care Coordination

Medicaid Benefits

Third Party Liability

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Jodie Edmonds worked for the State of Illinois for 33 years. Over 20 of those years were spent managing the Illinois Medicaid statewide billing and payment section within the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services. Jodie's role with the Illinois Hospital Association as the Director, Financial Health Care Analysis is to manage the Managed Care Organization Hospital Access Program (MCO-HAP). Part of her responsibilities include the education of hospitals on best practices relating to Illinois Medicaid billing and policy.



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SAVE THE DATE!



CHARLES GARVIN MEMORIAL GOLF OUTING

Eagle Ridge Golf Course

Galena, IL

September 10, 2015

Educational Sessions

September 11, 2015

Eagle Ridge Resort!

Details and Registration Information Coming Soon!



SAVE THE DATE!



ILLINOIS
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SAVE THE DATE!

Join us for an IL AAHAM

QUESTION AND ANSWER

Webinar with Jodie Edmonds!

August 12 2015

11:30am-12:30pm



Submit questions July 1st-July 31st that you would like Jodie to answer during the webinar to:

CJ Tonozi @ clinton.j.tonozi@osfhealthcare.org

Register Online Beginning July 1st at www.illinoisaham.com/events.htm

\$25 per line.

Once you sign up and pay online via credit card, we will e-mail your log-in information.

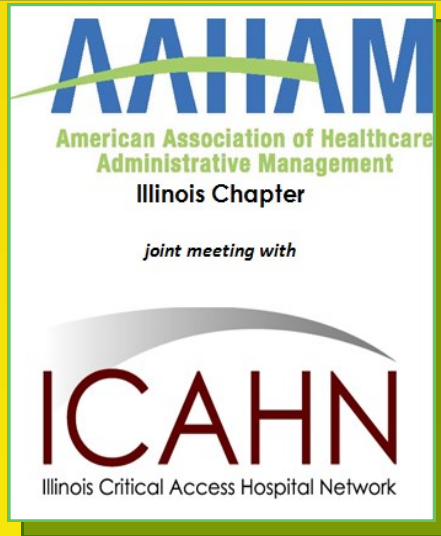


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Great Summer Joint IL AAHAM & ICAHN Meeting on June 17-Springfield, IL!



Kenny Koerner, IL AAHAM President and Pat Schou, Executive Director ICAHN



Great attendance!



WELCOME First Time Attendees!



Presenter, Suzanne Lestina and Kenny Koerner!

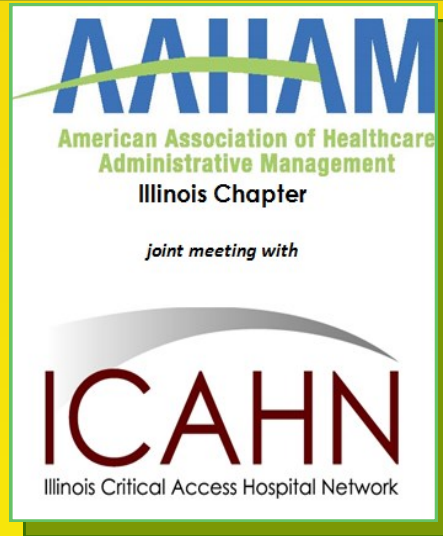


Excellent Networking Opportunities!

Great Summer Joint IL AAHAM & ICAHN Meeting on June 17-Springfield, IL!



A chance to catch up!



Smile Ladies! Great Education!!



Revenue Cycle Round Table Moderator, Julie VanPelt...501R anyone???

Great Discussion!



AAHAM Gives! Central Illinois Food Bank receives \$342.00 from our Charity Raffle!



Let's talk Certification!



Presenter, Derek DePudyt



IL President Kenny Koerner with National 1st Vice President, John Currier.

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VOTE!!

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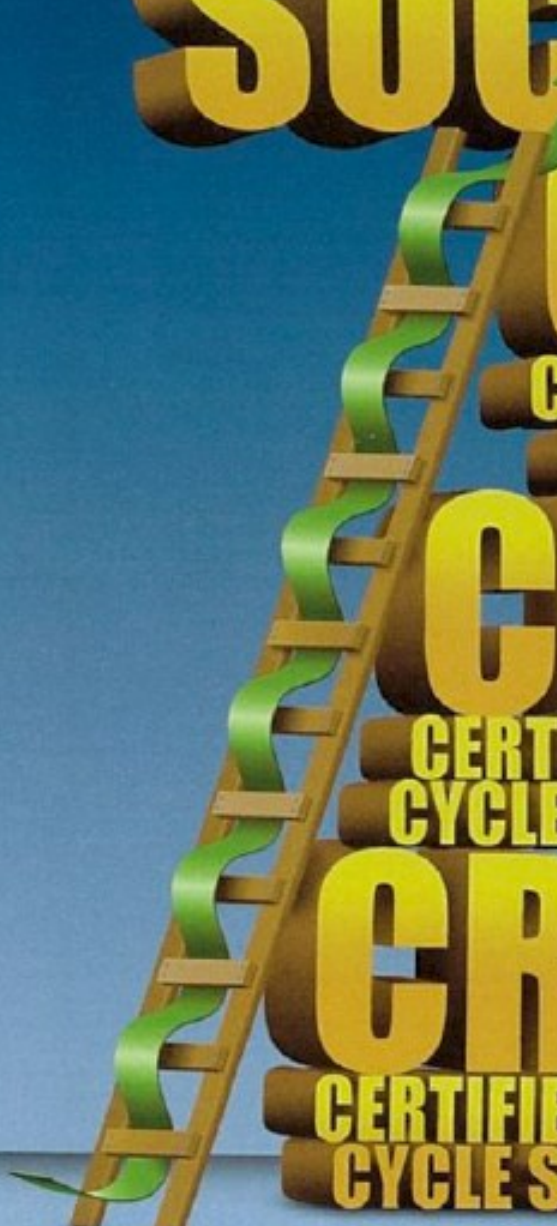


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AAHAM Summer 2015 PAC & Legislative Updates

Medicare OPPS

- PO Modifier requirement for provider-based off-site hospital departments
 - Limited guidance for system build has been published for most EHR platforms
 - Systems should be entering test phase of automation
- C-APC Impact
 - Significant positive impact for smaller hospitals
 - Need to monitor bundling to ensure MAC is bundling into correct C-APC
 - Need to consider eliminating some series billing – i.e. - infusion
- 59 modifier change to X-Mods on hold
 - Still waiting for additional guidance on proper application to be issued.
 - Humana Med-C has been denying claims with 59 mod & requesting the appropriate x-mod be appended... but cannot provide any guidance.

Medicaid

- Medicaid RAC automated audits have begun
 - Transfer DRG
 - Discharge disposition accuracy
 - Bundling
 - Have not been advised that any complex ADRs have been sent
- Pending Illinois budget cuts could be significant
- Many providers are still experiencing significant difficulty in navigating between tradition & managed Medicaid network requirements

Affordable Care Act

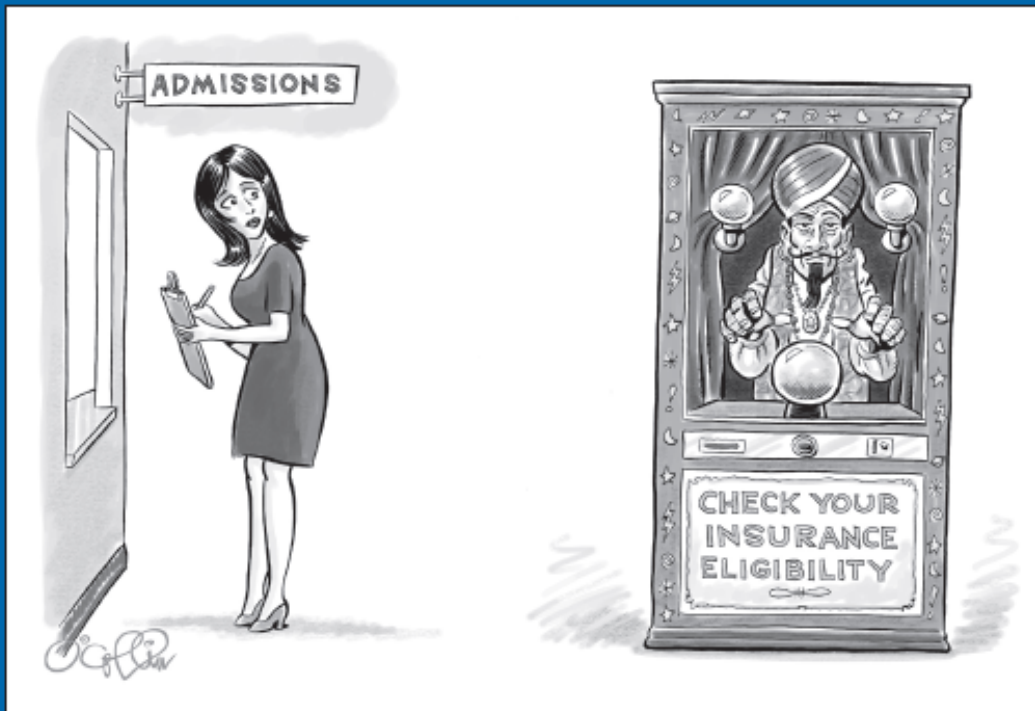
- Case currently with Supreme court to determine if residents of states without an exchange should still receive federal subsidies
 - Withdrawing subsidies could unravel ACA
 - Eliminating ban on pre-existing conditions
 - No longer able to keep children on plan until age 26
 - Free mammogram
 - >16 Million could lose coverage
- GOP seems unwilling to consider any type of reform to ACA and are pushing for full repeal
 - Ways & Mean Chairman Paul Ryan hopes “we will have a republican alternative” if Supreme Court rules in favor of the petition

Illinois

- Fiscal 2016 budget has not been approved
 - Governor Rauner has pledged to veto the Democratically approved FY16 budget, calling it “phony”
 - SOI will run out of payroll funding by mid-July if a budget is not agreed on which could lead to government shutdown
 - AFSCME contract expires with this fiscal & members have been actively striking in both the Bloomington & Peoria areas threatening to strike.

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May 2015 Newly Certified

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Violeta Camargo, CRCS-P (Hawkeye)
Crystal Dilley, CRCS-P
Keia Miller, CRCS-P
Andrea Moffitt, CRCS-I
-Josh Smith, CRCS-I
April Snell, CRCS-P (Hawkeye)

CGH Medical Center

Anna Reynolds, CRCS-I

Crawford Memorial Hospital

Kamee Hoke, CRCS-I
Lela Woodward, CRCS-I

Gibson Area Hospital

Matthew Ertel, CRCS-P
Courtney Ryan, CRCS-I

Midwestern University

Genie Georgacopoulos, CRCS-I

Rochelle Community Hospital

Amy Hall, CRCS-I
Pamela Needham-Volkert, CRCS-I
Lois Rowley, CRCS-I
Christene Willis, CRCS-I

Congratulations!

Way to go!

Certification Schedule

March 2, 2015 - Registration deadline
for May 2015 Exams
May 11-22, 2015 - Exam period
June 1, 2015 - Registration deadline
for August 2015 Exams
August 10-21, 2015 - Exam period
September 1, 2015 - Registration
deadline for November 2015 Exams
November 9-20, 2015 - Exam period
December 1, 2015 --Registration
deadline for February 2016 Exams



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501r Final Regulations

501r Final Regulations

Over four years after it was enacted, 501r final regulations were published at the end of 2014. The effective date is 12/29/15. For those of us in Patient Accounts, the final regulations bring some changes to how we notify our hospital patients of the availability of our financial assistance programs. Additionally, a new phrase, Extraordinary Collection Actions (ECA) will have impact not only to our billing notices and conversations but the activities of our collection agencies.

At a glance:

- *Familiarize yourself with the Treasury's definition of Financial Assistance Policy, Financial Assistance Summary, Widely Publicized and Credit Policy
- *Understand what is an ECA and when it may be initiated and when it may be suspended
- *Review your hospital website, signage and written publications to ensure that they meet the standards.
- *Create procedures to identify patients who are entitled to refunds in certain situations under this regulation
- *Meet with your bad debt agency to discuss 501r. How will you pass the necessary information? How will you exchange information about received applications and the use or discontinuance of ECAs?

I will be speaking in more detail about 501r at the Illinois AAHAM Fall meeting on September 11, 2015 in Galena.

Julie VanPelt



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HOT Topics!

Americans Should Expect Out-of-Pocket Costs to Rise Again by 2019

Nearly all Americans should expect out-of-pocket expenditures for health-care products and services to rise by 8 percent by 2019, according a new report.

Consumers currently pay about \$416 billion in out-of-pocket health-care costs, and that is expected to rise to \$608 billion by 2019, the report from Kalorama Information said. Consumers should expect to pay more for copays for physician and hospital visits, medications and insurance premiums, according to the report, "Out-Of-Pocket Health Care Expenditures in the United States."

Ben Carlson, publisher for Kalorama Information, told reporters that the Affordable Care Act has contributed to the rise of out-of-pocket health-care expenditures. As a result of more Americans having health-care coverage, the frequency of Americans visiting physicians and hospitals has risen as well as the cost to treat patients.

The ACA allows for financial incentives to encourage employees to improve their

health care. More employers also are shifting to plans with higher deductibles, which increases out-of-pocket costs for individuals, the report said.

The ACA mandates that all health insurance plans implement an out-of-pocket maximum. However, plan premiums aren't included in out-of-pocket maximum calculations. Deductibles, copayments and coinsurance are included in maximums. The out-of-pocket limit is \$6,600 for individuals and \$13,200 for a families.

Consumers are using credit cards, cash, checks, health saving accounts and loans to pay for their out -of-pocket health care payments, the report found.

Increasing out-of-pocket health-care costs has been a trend in recent years. For example, the average deductible in 2013 for employee-only coverage was \$1,135, compared to the \$1,097 average deductible cost in 2012, according to "2014 Employer Health Benefits Survey" released in September 2014 by the

Kaiser Family Foundation/Health Research & Educational Trust.

Certain groups are at a higher risk for increased out-of-pocket health care expenditures, the report said.

The high-risk groups include the uninsured and underinsured, Medicaid beneficiaries, disabled individuals, senior citizens, mentally ill patients and obese individuals. Individuals in these groups are more likely to visit a hospital or physician multiple times within a month, meaning they pay more in out-of-pocket copays and other costs.

The report stated that "with over 130 million members [of these high-risk groups] in 2014, individuals with chronic health conditions comprised the single largest group followed by obese persons with 126 million and Medicaid recipients with 68 million. Through 2019, the greatest growth will continue to be among persons with chronic conditions, which will expand by 6.0% per year, and the disabled, which will expand by 3.7% per year."





HOT Topics!

States Have One Last Chance for Feds to Pay for Medicaid Expansion

If states want the federal government to foot the bill for a Medicaid expansion, their window is rapidly closing.

Under the Affordable Care Act, states that expand Medicaid are rewarded by a 100 percent federal match rate—until the end of 2016. After next year, the rate starts declining, dropping to 90 percent by 2020.

So far, 21 states have not expanded the program, although three are discussing it. With federal funding decreasing within the next fiscal year and state legislatures wrapping up for the session, it's questionable whether the reduction will deter states from ever expanding.

In other words, states that haven't expanded might, from now on, have less of a carrot to do so.

"I think the 100 percent match is definitely an incentive," said Laura Snyder, a senior policy analyst at the Kaiser Family Foundation. "There's definitely some pressure there."

Although states can choose to opt into the expansion at any point, in most states, budgets that legislators pass next session will include a 100 percent match for only six months before the amount decreases.

"There would be some state costs at that point, but

again, it's still well above what states get for their standard matching rate," Snyder said.

The conservative line of thought goes like this: States that already didn't want to expand their Medicaid programs will want to even less now that they'll have to pay for more of it.

In Florida, which is contemplating an expansion, Gov. Rick Scott endorsed it in 2013 but then reversed himself recently during an ongoing fight with the Obama administration over a separate pool of Medicaid funding for uncompensated care. He has cited the specter of the state match for Medicaid expansion to explain his position.

"I've been very consistent. I said this from the beginning: If the federal government wants to have a program that they pay for, I won't stand in their way," Scott said last month. "But don't come and tell me that you want to do something in my state and have me raise the taxes on our citizens."

Like Florida, Utah and Alaska are considering Medicaid expansion. Florida entered a special session Monday, continuing debate over the state budget and health care legislation. The state Senate has backed a plan to provide insurance to low-income Floridians using funds from Obamac-

are, but the House is opposed and argues that the plan would be a Medicaid expansion.

In Utah, a small group of lawmakers are negotiating a deal with the governor to cover the state's uninsured. And Alaska has called a second special session to work on its state budget. Medicaid expansion wasn't on the agenda last week, Alaska Public Radio Network reported.

Pressure might not just come from lower match rates, Snyder said. Medicaid disproportionate share hospital payments—which help with uncompensated care costs—are set to be reduced in 2018, which also might be a reason to expand.

"While we don't know fully the methodology for how those cuts will go into effect, it's expected they'll affect expansion and non-expansion states alike," Snyder said.

But whether expanding Medicaid saves or costs a state money seems to be a matter of perspective.

"The expansion of Obamacare is not free," Scott said.



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May 13, 2015

Illinois HFS Bulletin



Courtesy of Nebo Systems, a part of Experian

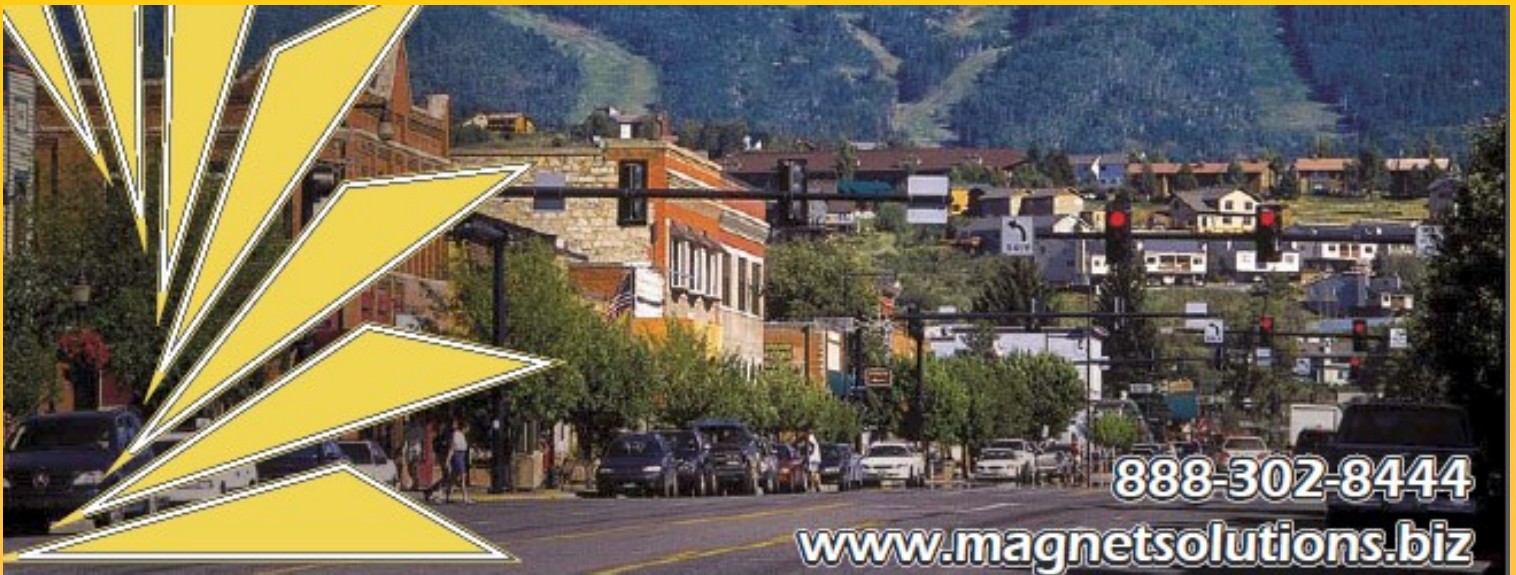
This is a complimentary bulletin for Medicaid information in Illinois from Nebo Systems, a part of Experian. If you would rather not receive this information, please click the unsubscribe link at the bottom of the page.

Erroneous HFS Rejections

HFS has reported a system issue beginning with claims received on 04/10/15 and after. The HFS system is not editing information received from EQ Health against the claim data appropriately, resulting in rejections for some or all of the following rejection codes: **A88, A19, A48, A54** and **C88**.

HFS anticipates the system will be fixed the week of 05/11/15. Providers can hold claims until the system fix is in place and submit their claims electronically. Providers can also submit the claims hardcopy requesting a manual override. HFS will send out notification once the system fix is in place. Once the system fix is in place, providers will have 180 days from the date of the system fix to resubmit their claims.





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Illinois American Association of Healthcare
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AAHAM Illinois Chapter



2015 Events Calendar

Preliminary Calendar of Events:

- March 11** IL AAHAM Board Meeting, 6pm, Champaign, IL
March 12 IL AAHAM Spring Education Meeting, Hawthorn Suites by Wyndham—
Champaign, IL
- March 30-31** Legislative Day
Hyatt Regency Capital Hill
Washington, DC
- June 16** IL AAHAM Board Meeting
June 17 IL AAHAM Summer Education Meeting, Northfield Inn and Suites,
Springfield, IL
- June 26** WEBINAR! Jodie Edmonds Eligibility Webinar!
- August 12** WEBINAR! Jodie Edmonds-Question and Answer Session!
- September 10** IL AAHAM Board Meeting – **Location TBA**
September 10 Charles Garvin Memorial Golf Outing – Eagle Ridge Golf Course
- September 11** Fall Education Meeting – Galena, IL
- December 2** Board Meeting –
Vendor Reception
East Peoria, IL **Location TBA**
- December 3-4** Annual State Institute –
East Peoria, IL **Location TBA**



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- Illinois Collectors Association
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Please Contact Douglas Headman, Vice President for additional information:
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The search stops here.



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2014-2015 IL AAHAM Leadership

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Illinois Chapter

2015 CORPORATE PARTNERS

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<p>The SSI Group, Inc. www.ssigroup.com Christy Dawson – Christy.dawson@ssigroup.com</p>	

SILVER LEVEL

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Midwest Credit & Collections, Inc.	Ron Wilson – rwilson@mccionline.com
ProCom Services of Illinois, Inc.	John McGlasson – mcglasson.john@pro-comservices.com
RevSpring, Inc.	Dan Hartnett – dhartnett@revspringinc.com
Rockford Mercantile Agency, Inc.	Danielle Miller - dani@rmacollections.com
State Collection Services, Inc.	Brad Taylor – bradt@stcol.com

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Managed Care Partners, Inc.	James Richmond – jrichmond@mngdcare.com
Medical Business Bureau, LLC	Randy Gelb – rgelb@mbb.net
Medical Reimbursements of America	Vanessa Haydon – vhaydon@mrareults.com
RRCA Accounts Management, Inc.	Kevin Heller – rcca@essex1.com
The Hauge Group	Charlie Cole – charliec@thehauggroup.com





2015 APPLICATION FOR NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP

NAME: _____ TITLE: _____

EMPLOYER/ORGANIZATION NAME: _____

PRIMARY ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____ FAX: _____ LOCAL CHAPTER: _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____ WEBSITE: _____

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How did you hear about AAHAM? Colleague Publication Website LinkedIn

If referred by AAHAM member, please give name: _____

Membership Type: National Member Student Member

NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP - The fee to become a National member is \$190. If you join anytime between July 1st and August 31st, the dues are \$150 for the rest of the current year. If you join between September 1st and December 31st, the fee is \$230 for the rest of the current year and all of the following year.

STUDENT MEMBERSHIP - The student membership fee is \$50. If you join between July 1st and August 31st, the pro-rated dues are \$35, and if you join between September 1st and December 31st, dues are \$65 (for 15 months of membership). **To qualify for student membership you must currently be taking 6 credit hours per semester and submit proof with this application.** Student members receive all the benefits of membership with the exception of voting, eligibility for professional certification, and cannot be a proxy for a chapter president at any national board meetings.

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Please note: Membership is on an individual, not institutional, basis and is non-transferable.

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Please make checks payable to AAHAM and send application with your payment to:

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Fax: 703-359-7562
AAHAM Tax ID: 23-1899873

YOUR PAYMENT TOTAL:

NATIONAL DUES: _____

LOCAL DUES: _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED: _____

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ILLINOIS
AAHAM



Local Chapters: AAHAM has 32 chapters throughout the US and India. Local chapters offer you more opportunities for education and networking. Please see the listing of local chapters below to help you decide which chapter you should belong to along with your National membership

Name of Chapter	Geographic Location	Chapter Dues	Please Check the Appropriate Codes in Each Category Below
Aksarben #01	Nebraska	\$0.00	Years in Healthcare: <input type="checkbox"/> 0-5 <input type="checkbox"/> 6-10 <input type="checkbox"/> 11-20 <input type="checkbox"/> 21-25 <input type="checkbox"/> 25+ Certification: <input type="checkbox"/> CHAM (NAHAM) <input type="checkbox"/> CHFP (HFMA) <input type="checkbox"/> FHFMA (HFMA) <input type="checkbox"/> CHCS (ACA) <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please list) Employer Type: <input type="checkbox"/> Vendor/Corporate Partner <input type="checkbox"/> Billing <input type="checkbox"/> Collection Agency <input type="checkbox"/> Consulting <input type="checkbox"/> Outsourcing <input type="checkbox"/> Software/IT <input type="checkbox"/> Provider <input type="checkbox"/> Law Firm <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please list) Position: <input type="checkbox"/> CFO <input type="checkbox"/> Vice President <input type="checkbox"/> Partner, Principal, Owner <input type="checkbox"/> Executive Director <input type="checkbox"/> Consultant <input type="checkbox"/> Director <input type="checkbox"/> Manager <input type="checkbox"/> Supervisor/Coordinator <input type="checkbox"/> PFS Representative <input type="checkbox"/> Patient Access Representative <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please list) Responsibility: <input type="checkbox"/> Accounting <input type="checkbox"/> Administration/Operations <input type="checkbox"/> Admitting/Access <input type="checkbox"/> Audit <input type="checkbox"/> Benefits <input type="checkbox"/> Budget <input type="checkbox"/> Compliance <input type="checkbox"/> Business Development, Sales, Marketing <input type="checkbox"/> Information Services/Technology <input type="checkbox"/> Managed Care <input type="checkbox"/> Medical Records <input type="checkbox"/> Medicare/Medicaid <input type="checkbox"/> PFS, Patient Billing & Collections <input type="checkbox"/> Reimbursement <input type="checkbox"/> Third Party Administration <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please list)
Florida Sunshine #03	Florida	\$40.00	
Carolina #04	North & South Carolina	\$30.00	
Evergreen #05	Washington State, West of the Mountains	\$30.00	
Gopher #06	Minnesota	\$40.00	
Hawkeye #07	Iowa	\$0.00	
Hawthorn #08	Missouri	\$45.00	
Illinois #09	Illinois	\$25.00	
Inland Empire #10	Washington State, East of the Mountains	\$25.00	
Keystone #11	Central Pennsylvania	\$25.00	
Maryland #13	Maryland	\$25.00	
Mountain West #14	Utah	\$30.00	
New Jersey #16	New Jersey	\$35.00	
Western Reserve #18	Ohio	\$0.00	
Northeast PA #19	North East Pennsylvania	\$30.00	
Rocky Mountain #21	Colorado	\$20.00	
Pine Tree #22	Maine	\$25.00	
Rushmore #23	North & South Dakota	\$0.00	
Western Region #26	Arizona and California	\$0.00	
Virginia #27	Virginia	\$30.00	
Philadelphia #29	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania	\$35.00	
Mid-York #31	New York	\$30.00	
Georgia #33	Georgia	\$30.00	
Connecticut #34	Connecticut	\$35.00	
Three Rivers #37	Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania	\$50.00	
Texas Bluebonnet #40	Texas	\$50.00	
Indiana #42	Indiana	\$25.00	
Wisconsin #44	Wisconsin	\$25.00	
Chennai #49	Chennai, India	\$0.00	
Music City #53	Tennessee	\$25.00	
Michigan #55	Michigan	\$0.00	
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