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INFORMATIONAL NOTICE

Date: June 17, 2009

To: Participating medical assistance providers

Re: Fiscal year 2010 budget

The General Assembly recently approved a “50-percent budget” for the twelve-month period beginning July 1, 2009. That fiscal year 2010 budget underfunds a long list of vital services and programs, including the medical assistance programs administered by the Department. That budget is inadequate and falls far short of meeting the statutory obligations and needs of the State and fails to fulfill our basic commitments to the people of Illinois.

The General Assembly’s “50 percent budget” cut over \$1.4 billion from the Department’s budget. That cut may necessitate significant reductions in both the number of people—seniors, persons with disabilities, families, children—and the scope of medical services covered, in order to reduce program costs. Programs currently slated for reduction include:

- The Illinois Cares Rx program, paying for the pharmacy bills of nearly 200,000 seniors and people with disabilities.
- The AllKids expansion program, and the AllKids rebate program, paying for providing care to over 73,700 children not otherwise provided medical coverage under Medicaid or CHIPRA.
- The Renal, Hemophilia, and Sexual Assault Survivors programs, covering specialized care for nearly 1,500 people.
- The General Assistance medical program, paying for healthcare for nearly 8,600 adults in Chicago.

Even with these cuts, the budget as passed will unfortunately mean an increase in the length of time in which the state can pay certain providers—in some cases adding more than 200 days to the amount of time it will take the State to make payments for the services that you have provided. The budget request introduced by the Governor allowed all of the Department’s medical assistance providers to be paid in 30 days or less.

Since unveiling his budget proposal in March, Governor Quinn has understood and expressed the consequences of an inadequate budget. While the Governor continues to work with the General Assembly to enact a responsible and balanced budget, we must take steps to operate within the statutory limits of the budget that was approved by the legislature. To contact your legislator, go to www.ilga.gov and click on “legislator lookup.”

/s/

Barry S. Maram