

# Illinois Unified Medicare-Medicaid Appeals Process

## Level 1: Internal Plan Level Appeals for both Medicaid and Medicare Services

*Timeframe to file: 60 days from Notice of Adverse Action*

*Continuation of benefits: Benefits continue pending appeal for Medicare Services – Medicaid appeals must be filed within 10 days from Notice of Adverse Action*

**Standard Process**

- Resolution timeframe: 15-business day limit

**Expedited Process:**

- Resolution timeframe: 24-hours after receipt of info

### Level 2 for Medicare and Medicare-Medicaid Overlap Independent Review Entity

**Medicaid-only Services**  
Beneficiary can appeal to the State Fair Hearing and/or Medicaid-IRE

**Medicare services and Medicaid-Medicare overlap services**  
Automatic forwarding to IRE;

#### Medicare IRE

**Standard Process**  
Pre-Service: 30-day limit  
Payment: 60-day limit

**Expedited Process**  
Pre-Service: 72 hour limit  
Payment: Cannot be expedited

*Medicare services: benefits do not continue*

*M-M Overlap services: benefits continue pending IRE*

#### Medicaid-only

**(Level 2):** 30 days to file  
Benefits continue if requested by enrollee within 10 days of receipt of contractor's decision notice

**Medicaid IRE**

### Level 2 for Medicaid Services Level 3 for Medicare-only and M-M Overlap

#### Medicare-Medicaid-Overlap Services

**Overlap (Level 3):** May appeal to **SFH or ALJ**  
Bene has 30-days to file SFH  
Bene has 60 days for ALJ (must meet minimum \$)

#### Medicare-only Services

**Medicare: Level 3** - 60 days to file; must meet minimum dollar amount; No continuation of benefits

#### Medicare Administrative Law

No statutory time limit for processing

Standard  
90 days after contractor's decision notice including days client took to file for a SFH

Expedited  
3 Days

#### State Fair Hearing

### Level 4: External Appeal #3

35 days to file for admin review

#### Circuit Court Administrative Hearing

No statutory time limit for processing

**Medicaid END**

60 days to file

#### Medicare Appeals Council

No statutory time limit for processing

#### Federal District Court

**Medicare END**