



PAT QUINN  
Governor  
MICHAEL T. McRAITH  
Director

# NEWS

## Illinois Department of Insurance

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## Illinois Department of Insurance Announces Heightened Scrutiny of Health Insurance Premium Hikes

### *New Reporting Protocols to Improve Transparency of Premium Increases in Health Insurance Market*

**CHICAGO**—October 31, 2010. The Illinois Department of Insurance today announced new reporting requirements for premium increases proposed by Illinois health insurers. The federal Affordable Care Act requires the State to review all unreasonable health insurance premium increases. The Department outlined a process to ensure all proposed premium increases are reported to the Department and made available to the public.

“Unlike most states, Illinois law does not afford employers and families protection against premium increases that exceed both national averages and rates of medical inflation,” said Illinois Department of Insurance Director Michael T. McRaith. “Under Governor Quinn’s direction, the Department is committed to improving the transparency of health insurance pricing in Illinois which, in the absence of reform, can be both opaque and unreasonable. The enhanced reporting requirements announced today will lead to better and more reliable information for Illinois’ families, employers and policymakers.”

The reporting process outlined by the Department requires health insurers to submit rate changes, and information justifying any rate increases, beginning December 1, 2010. By February 1, 2011, health insurers will be able to submit the required information electronically through the Department’s website.

On August 16, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services awarded the Department a \$1 million federal grant under the Affordable Care Act to enhance the Department’s review of health insurance premium increases. Details of the Department’s federally supported rate review program are available at [www.insurance.illinois.gov/HIRIC](http://www.insurance.illinois.gov/HIRIC).

#### **More Information**

The Department’s mission is to protect consumers by providing assistance and information, by efficiently regulating the insurance industry’s market behavior and financial solvency, and by fostering a competitive insurance marketplace. The Department assists consumers with all insurance complaints, including health, auto, life, and homeowner. Consumers in need of information or assistance should visit the Department’s Web site at [www.illinois.insurance.gov](http://www.illinois.insurance.gov) or call our toll-free hotline at (877) 527-9431.

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