

Illinois Healthy Women

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Illinois Healthy Women Overview

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What is IHW?

- Federal family planning waiver program
- IHW provides voluntary and confidential family planning services at no cost to women
- Goals include:
 - Prevent unintended pregnancies
 - Improve maternal health & birth outcomes
 - Allow women to choose if & when to get pregnant

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How to enroll?

- Automatic enrollment--for women who lose regular HFS medical benefits.
- Application enrollment (expansion) -- applications can be downloaded from Web site www.illinoishealthywomen.com OR call 1-800-226-0768 (TTY: 1-877-204-1012) to request a paper application.
- HFS requests providers to assist clients in completing applications.

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Who qualifies for IHW?

- Women ages 19 through 44
- Up to 200% FPL (about \$41,300/year based on a family of four)
- U.S. citizen or legal permanent resident with a Social Security Number
- Resident of Illinois
- Women in need of family planning/birth control (not pregnant or sterilized)

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How does IHW work?

- Women in IHW receive a Pink Card that they can use to access free family planning services.
- Women can visit any provider, clinic or pharmacy that accepts the Pink Card for covered services.
- Re-enrollment takes place annually.
- Automated enrollment: 3-month card sent & signed enrollment form must be returned for additional 9 months of coverage.
- Application enrollment: provides 12 months of coverage for those determined eligible through the application process.

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How does IHW work?

- Covered services include:
 - Physical exam, health history, and education & counseling for family planning
 - Birth control
 - Pap test at family planning visit
 - Sterilization services for patients who are 21 years of age or older
 - Mammograms, when ordered by the doctor at the family planning visit
 - Lab tests necessary for family planning or related reproductive health
 - Testing and medicine for sexually transmitted infections found during the family planning exam, including HIV testing
 - Multivitamins and folic acid

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When to Refer?

- Refer eligible women in need of primary health care services not covered under IHW to Illinois Health Connect (HFS Hotline) at 1-877-912-1999
- Refer women in need of birth control who are not eligible for IHW to family planning providers via DHS Helpline at 1-800-843-6154
- Refer women who are suspected of having breast or cervical cancer or a precancerous condition to DPH Women's Health-Line at 1-888-522-1282

When to Refer?

- Refer women in need of HIV/AIDS treatment resources to DPH AIDS/HIV & STD Hotline at 1-800-243-2437
- Refer women who are experiencing perinatal depression to a local community mental health center, call 1-800-843-6154

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What are the IHW Evaluation Goals?

- More women will obtain family planning services statewide
- The proportion of women who wait at least 18 months before having another child will increase
- Enrolled women who do not have a source of primary care will receive referrals to low-cost primary care
- HFS' annual expenditures for prenatal, delivery, newborn, and infant care will be lower with the waiver than the expected cost of those services without the waiver

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How You Can Help?

- Promote IHW—agency and community
- Identify eligible clients—help clients complete and submit forms
- Educate women—they listen to you
Discuss a reproductive plan with each client
- Advocate for women by providing appropriate referrals

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