Illinois ADVANCE

Newsletter

Spring 2026

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ILLINOIS HEALTH & POLICY UPDATE: WHAT'S NEW FOR 2026

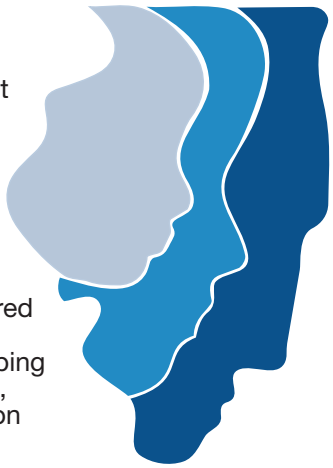
Just as a reminder for the New Year, IL ADVANCE wanted to provide information on new laws that went into effect January 1, 2026.

Senate Bill 119:

To ensure appropriate treatment, every pregnant patient should be tested for prenatal syphilis by an appropriate healthcare provider at the time of first examination and repeated once during the third trimester.

House Bill (HB) 3709:

Public institutions of higher education are required to provide enrolled students with access to healthcare professionals experienced in prescribing contraception and medical abortion. In addition, institutions are required to provide information on how to access the services.



HB 2462:

The Illinois Department of Public Health is allowed to issue a standing order for authorized entities to acquire epinephrine delivery devices and for trained individuals to administer the device in case of severe allergic responses or anaphylactic shock.

HB 2517:

To reduce maternal health disparities and maternal mortality rates, a one hour training course on implicit bias will be a condition of license renewal for health care professionals who provide maternal health.

IDPH

FDA Updates on Hormone Replacement Therapy

Menopausal hormone replacement therapy (HRT) is FDA-approved to treat common menopause symptoms such as hot flashes, night sweats, and genitourinary syndrome of menopause, and some products also help prevent osteoporosis. Evidence suggests that for most women who start HRT within 10 years of menopause onset or before age 60, benefits may outweigh risks, including reduced mortality and fracture risk, with no increase in cancer mortality seen in large analyses.

To reflect current evidence, the FDA is working with manufacturers to remove outdated "black box" warnings related to cardiovascular disease, breast cancer, and dementia (while retaining warnings for endometrial cancer with systemic estrogen-alone therapy). These updates aim to support informed, individualized decision-making between women and their healthcare providers.

The FDA has also approved a generic version of Premarin and non-hormonal options for moderate to severe vasomotor symptoms.

Stay Ahead of the Curve

Our New Asthma Management Brochure is Here!

Following the GINA 2025 updates released last year, we've fully overhauled our Asthma Management brochure. While SMART therapy remains a cornerstone for mild and moderate cases, the latest guidelines introduce critical new approaches for managing **severe asthma**. We've synthesized these complex changes into a clear, actionable guide. **Let's schedule a time to discuss how these updates impact your practice.**

Illinois ADVANCE

Evidence Supporting Pharmacy-Prescriber Collaboration

We are proud to share that IL ADVANCE has been published in the **Journal of the American Pharmacists Association (JAPhA)**, one of the nation's leading peer-reviewed journals in pharmacy practice.

ARTICLE IN PRESS

SCIENCE AND PRACTICE

Journal of the American Pharmacists Association

ELSEVIER

APhA

BRIEF REPORT

ADVANCE-ing patient care: Implementation of the academic detailing program Illinois ADVANCE

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ARTICLE INFO

ABSTRACT

Background

This publication highlights our work and reinforces IL ADVANCE's commitment to evidence-based, pharmacist-driven solutions that improve patient care and advance public health across Illinois. Being selected for publication in JAPhA reflects the strength, rigor, and real-world impact of our approach.

We are honored to contribute to the national conversation on pharmacy practice and grateful to our partners who make this work possible.

Read the peer-reviewed article https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1544319125005837

Thank you for supporting IL ADVANCE as we continue to elevate pharmacy practice through research, collaboration, and innovation.

CMS TACKLES WEIGHT-LOSS DRUG COSTS

New "BALANCE" Model

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) just announced a major move to bridge the gap between high-cost medications and the patients who need them. The **BALANCE Model** is a new voluntary program designed to expand access to GLP-1 weight-loss drugs for Medicare and Medicaid beneficiaries.

Why it matters:

This is the first time the federal government is treating obesity medications as a standard, accessible benefit rather than a luxury. By combining "breakthrough science with healthy living," CMS aims to lower long-term costs by preventing chronic diseases before they start.

Highlights:

- **Lower Costs:** CMS will negotiate directly with manufacturers to secure better pricing
- **The "Bridge" Payment:** Starting **July 2026**, eligible Medicare Part D patients can access these drugs for a flat **$50/month** co-pay
- **More Than a Pill: :** The model mandates that medications be paired with lifestyle supports, such as nutrition and exercise programs
- **Phased Rollout:** Full implementation begins for Medicaid in **May 2026** and Medicare Part D in **January 2027**

Read the full announcement: CMS Launches BALANCE Model

Practical Support for Busy Physicians

Physician burnout is real—and it's something many of us feel as we balance demanding schedules, patient care, and life outside the clinic. To support your well-being, IL ADVANCE is launching a new recurring feature dedicated to sharing practical tips and simple strategies to help manage stress, prevent burnout, and make busy days a little more sustainable. From small mindset shifts to time-saving tools you can use right away, this feature is designed to meet you where you are and offer support that fits into real life.

Have a tip or strategy that's helped you along the way? Join the conversation and share your ideas on social media using **#ILAdvanceWellness** so we can learn from one another.