



MFTD Waiver Families

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Facts and Figures on Medicaid Reimbursement Cuts for Children in the MFTD Waiver

Overview

- As of May 1, 2015, Illinois made a 16.75% across-the-board cut to Medicaid reimbursement rates, including reimbursement for homecare nurses who take care of children in the MFTD waiver. Private duty nursing reimbursement has been cut 19% since 2012.
- Since no budget was passed, nursing agencies have been informed they will no longer be paid.
- Other services, including wheelchair repairs, durable medical equipment including ventilators, medical supplies such as catheters and oxygen supplies, and therapies have also been affected.

Affect of Cuts

- Children are now living in hospitals because no nursing agencies will take them. As of 6/1, HFS reported 7 children were living in hospitals or transitional facilities. While more recent data is pending, we believe this number has at least doubled. Many pediatric intensive care and transitional units are completely full.
- Many children have been dropped by their nursing agencies, resulting in loss of nursing care or forced hospitalization, both which endanger lives.
- Most families have lost one or more nurses, and are experiencing unprecedented levels of low staffing, endangering the lives of children on a daily basis. Parents have been forced to quit their jobs to keep their children at home.
- Almost all agencies have cut nurse pay, as well as other benefits such as overtime. Approximately $\frac{1}{4}$ of agencies are no longer accepting children with Medicaid or are exiting the market.

Fiscal Irresponsibility

- Illinois ended up spending MORE money on MFTD waiver children during the May/June reimbursement cuts because many children ended up staying in hospitals. It took only 8 hospitalized children to exceed the amount of money that the state anticipated saving.
- It costs six times as much to hospitalize a child than it does to provide private duty nursing care for the child at home.

Sources and detailed information available at

<http://www.mftdwaiver.org/advocacy/reimbursement-cuts>