

Recent Laws Make Addiction Treatment Likely for Thousands Says Gateway

CHICAGO, March 26, 2015—Chicago-based [Gateway Alcohol & Drug Treatment](#) urges Illinois residents—even if denied health benefits for **alcohol or drug rehab** in the past—to check their current **healthcare plan** to determine if substance abuse treatment is covered by insurance. Now that federal parity laws, Illinois Parity, and The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act have all taken effect, many **health plans** include the same coverage benefits for treatment of mental health/substance use disorders (MH/SUD) as they do for general medical and surgical treatment.



“There are thousands of Illinois residents who need care for addiction issues and now more than ever they have access to treatment through their health insurance. Our goal is to help people understand their treatment options and their insurance benefits” says Michael Darcy, President & CEO, Gateway Alcohol & Drug Treatment.

Know Your Illinois Parity Rights

In the state of Illinois, unless an insurance plan is exempt, large employer plans are required in each calendar year to cover the following for substance use disorders:

- 45 days of [inpatient addiction treatment](#);
- 60 visits for [outpatient addiction treatment](#), including group and individual outpatient addiction treatment

Largely, federal parity laws apply as follows:

- **Health plans** sponsored by private and public sector employers with 51 or more employees, including self-insured and fully insured arrangements.
- Health insurance issuers who sell coverage to employers with 51 or more employees.
- All insurance plans sold inside and outside the state exchanges, which are available to individuals and smaller companies with 50 or fewer employees.
- Medicaid managed care organizations as well as state Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) plans.
- Medicaid benchmark and benchmark-equivalent plans (also known as Medicaid Alternative Benefit plans) must comply with Federal Parity regardless of whether services are delivered in a managed care arrangement.

“Substance use is a treatable healthcare disorder - and people should know it is covered by insurance, similar to diabetes, hypertension and cancer.” says Michael Darcy.

For more insight into helping people take on their addiction issues, check out Gateway’s Roadmap to Understanding Substance Abuse at RecoveryGateway.org/Roadmap.

About Gateway Foundation Alcohol & Drug Treatment

Gateway Alcohol & Drug Treatment Centers provide substance abuse treatment services for adults and adolescents at [drug treatment centers throughout Illinois and the St. Louis Metro East area](#).

Gateway’s outpatient and inpatient treatment centers are licensed by the state of Illinois and accredited by The Joint Commission. Each year, Gateway’s professional clinicians help thousands of individual's successfully complete treatment. To learn more about treatment options or insurance coverage for treatment related to alcohol or drug abuse, call Gateway at 877-505-HOPE (4673).

#