



The Illinois Healthcare Action Coalition (IHAC), EverThrive Illinois (formerly IL Maternal Child Health Coalition) and the Shriver Center for Poverty Law successfully collaborated to provide Illinois RNs with timely information and resources to assist the 1.5 million uninsured non-elderly adults in Illinois to obtain the benefits of health insurance. The Affordable Care Act puts in place comprehensive reforms that protect consumers from insurance industry practices which have limited access to coverage for many, and improves access to affordable health coverage.

The Illinois Center for Nursing (ICN) partnered in the creation of the webinars, focusing on nurse leadership and the transition of care coordination. The Institute of Medicine Report (IOM) recommends that nurses should be full partners in redesigning health care in the US. The IL Nurse Practice Act, includes RNs participating in the development of policies, procedures and systems to support patient safety, and references the Code of Ethics for Nurses. The Illinois Nurses Foundation provided 1 hour of free CE for RNs, which could be used towards IL RN relicensure requirement of 20 hrs CE/2 years.

EverThrive supported both webinars, focusing on two main areas of reforms that the ACA is responsible for: ending some of the worst practices of the insurance industry and providing two new health insurance coverage opportunities. For those who already had private health insurance coverage – either through their employer or on their own – when the ACA was signed into law those insurance plans are now more comprehensive and more secure because of the ACA. For example, only 12% of policies in the individual insurance market offered maternity coverage before enactment of the ACA. Now health insurance companies are banned from setting their prices due to gender and health status (pre-existing conditions). Pricing can still be set according to geography, age (limited 3:1), and tobacco use and number in family. In Illinois our health insurance marketplace is called Get Covered Illinois, www.GetCoveredIllinois.gov

The Illinois Healthcare Action Coalition has links if you would like to view either webinars, <http://www.illinoishac.com/> The webinars:

April 10, 2014: The Affordable Care Act Post Enrollment: How will Health Care Reform Affect the Health Care Workforce; presenters: Pam Robbins, ANA-IL, IHAC; Kathy Waligora, EverThrive Illinois; Andrea Kovach, Shriver Center and Rachel Abramson, HealthConnect One, Illinois.

February 13, 2014, An Overview of the ACA: How Illinois Nurses can educate & Guide Patients, Family & Friends about Provisions of the Law; presenters: Pam Robbins, ANA-IL, IHAC; Kathy Waligora, EverThrive Illinois; Andrea Kovach, Shriver Center.