



Illinois Department of Insurance

JB PRITZKER
Governor

ANN GILLESPIE
Acting Director

November 1, 2024

MercyCare HMO, Inc.
580 N. Washington St.
Janesville, WI 53545
Transmitted via SERFF

RE: Proposed Premium Rates for Plan Year 2025 in the Non-Grandfathered Small Group Market - SERFF Tracking No. MCIN-133973654

Dear MercyCare HMO, Inc.:

This letter provides my determination on behalf of the Illinois Department of Insurance (“Department”) regarding your proposed premium rates for the above-captioned market and plan year pursuant to 215 ILCS 5/355, 50 Ill. Adm. Code 2026, and 45 C.F.R. Part 154.

The Department received your initial rate filing submission on June 4, 2024. The Department posted the non-confidential portions of the initial rate filing on our public website and solicited public comments as described in 215 ILCS 5/355(d)-(e) and 50 Ill. Adm. Code 2026.70.

The Department appointed an actuarial firm, Risk & Regulatory Consulting, LLC (“RRC”), to assist Department staff in reviewing your initial rate filing, the related public comments, and any revisions you made to the rate filing or other correspondence with your representatives about this filing during the review process. Under 215 ILCS 5/355, the purpose of the review process was to enable the Department to determine whether any of your proposed rates would constitute an “unreasonable rate increase” as defined in 45 C.F.R. § 154.205. RRC has provided the Department a “Plan Year 2025 Public Rate Filing Decision Summary for Small Group ACA-Compliant Plans”, attached hereto, which contains the firm’s recommendation regarding the reasonability of your proposed rates and includes the firm’s findings, actuarial justifications, and rationale.

Having consulted with qualified personnel employed and retained by the Department, and based on the contents of the rate filing and related public comments, I hereby adopt RRC’s enclosed findings, actuarial justifications, and rationale as my own. Pursuant to 215 ILCS 5/355 and 50 Ill. Adm. Code 2026, I have determined that your currently proposed rates for Plan Year 2025 in the Non-Grandfathered Small Group Market do not constitute an unreasonable rate increase.

Sincerely,

Ann Gillespie
Acting Director of Insurance

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Plan Year 2025 Public Rate Filing Decision Summary for Small Group ACA-Compliant Plans

The Illinois Department of Insurance (IDOI) engaged Risk & Regulatory Consulting, LLC (RRC) to assist in the actuarial review of rates filed by certain insurance carriers that provide individual and small group health insurance benefits to residents of the State of Illinois. Their scope of work involved reviewing the filing, reviewing any public comments submitted on the filing, preparing objection questions for additional information as needed, and providing their observations and opinion. Their actuarial review is not intended to serve as the basis for actual product pricing. The ultimate decision regarding the reasonability of the filed rates is determined by the IDOI. RRC prepared this memorandum in order to make the rate filing decision available to the public pursuant to 215 ILCS 5/355.

This document is prepared as a consumer tool to help explain the rate filing. It is not intended to describe or include all factors or information considered in the review process. Based on review of the filing, the final rates are considered to be reasonable.

Overview

This table provides an overview of the rate filing.

Company Name	MercyCare HMO, Inc.
SERFF Filing ID	MCIN-133973654
Individual or Small Group	Small Group
Effective Date	1/1/2025
Exchange Information	Off-Exchange Only
Product Type(s) Offered	HMO
Metal Tiers Offered	Platinum, Gold, Silver
Tobacco Rating Factors Used	No
Description of Service Areas	Rating Area 2 (McHenry County only) Rating Area 5 (Boone & Winnebago Counties only)

Rate Change Summary

This table provides a summary of the rate change.

Average Final Rate Change (Minimum, Maximum)	+6.5% (+5.4%, +7.1%)
Average Requested Rate Change (Minimum, Maximum)	+6.5% (+5.4%, +7.1%)
Expected Number of People Affected	165

Allocation of Premium by Expense Type

This table illustrates the projected percentage of 2025 premium used to pay for claims vs. other expenses.

Category	% of Premium
Claims	87.6%
Administrative	9.9%

Taxes & Fees	0.9%
Profit/Risk Margin	1.6%

Process and Considerations for the 2025 Plan Year

Rate filing guidance is provided to insurers via a Department Bulletin. Company Bulletin 2024-11 provides guidance to insurers filing ACA-compliant plans. There were no significant changes to rate filing guidance from plan year 2024 to plan year 2025. The rate filings were reviewed for compliance with the Bulletin and federal requirements. The insurers provided an initial filing summary which was posted to the Department’s website. Members of the public were invited to submit comments on the rate filings. IDOI received one public comment letter addressing this rate filing, which was considered in RRC’s review. The rate review includes an objection process to obtain sufficient documentation from the insurer to review the reasonability of the submitted rate filing. RRC reviewed the information gathered during this process to provide observations and opinions for IDOI to consider in making its determination whether the filing shows an unreasonable rate increase as described in 50 Ill. Adm. Code 2026.40.

Review of Key Methodology & Assumptions

The key pricing methodology and assumptions that were used to develop the plan year 2025 rates were reviewed for reasonability. RRC examined the rate filing considering the factors, including but not limited to, those identified in Illinois regulation at 50 Ill. Adm. Code 2026.50(c) and (d). The following sections provide a summary of that review.

Base Experience

The Company’s own membership in the base period did not meet its credibility threshold, therefore, the Company fully relied on a manual rate developed from MercyCare’s credible Wisconsin large group experience. Adjustments were made to reflect the characteristics of MercyCare’s expected small group book of business in Illinois, as well as differences in benefits and provider contracts. The base period experience used for the manual rate appeared reasonable compared to that in the manual rate development for the 2024 filing.

Trend

The Company assumed an annualized trend rate of 6.3% from experience period (2023) to the projection period (2025). The trend was applied to non-capitated service experience only, which represents approximately 75% of total allowed claims. To assess the reasonability of the trend assumption, their trend assumption and support for their assumption is compared to published industry trend surveys as well as the market.

Projection Factors

The Company projects the base experience to the projection period using allowable projection factors. They adjust for morbidity (health status), demographics (age, area, benefit mix), and plan design (changes in benefits). They may also make adjustment for one-time items that occurred in

the experience but are not expected to occur in the projection period (such as adjusting for the impact of COVID-19). These adjustments were applied to non-capitated service experience only, which represents approximately 75% of total allowed claims. The expected capitation rate was then added to derive the manual rate for the projection period (2025). The methodology and assumptions used to set the projection factors were reviewed for reasonability.

Risk Adjustment

The Company assumed that their projected morbidity (health status) would be higher than the market and therefore they would receive a payment for risk adjustment.

Plan Level Factors

The Company sets the rate by plan. The following plan level adjustments are allowable under the ACA: the Actuarial Value and Cost Sharing Design of Plan, Provider Network, Benefits in Addition to Essential Health Benefits (EHBs), and Catastrophic Adjustments. These assumptions were reviewed for reasonability. Both the methodology used to set the assumption and the resulting factors were reviewed.

Administrative Expense

The Company includes the cost of administrative expenses in their rate development (9.9% of premium). Administrative expenses include general administrative costs as well as broker commissions. Their assumption was compared to the prior filing and to the market for reasonability.

Taxes and Fees

The Company includes the cost of taxes and fees in their rate development (0.9% of premium). The taxes and fees are set at the State and Federal level and are generally not assumptions made by the Company.

Profit

The Company included 1.6% of premium for a target net contribution to surplus that does not vary by product or plan. Support for the profit assumption was requested and reviewed for reasonability.

RRC found the assumptions to be reasonable.

Disclosures

This memorandum provides a summary for the rate review that RRC performed for the IDOI. A full RRC report with the details of the review was provided to the IDOI to inform their decision. The full report contains additional disclosures applicable to the review as required by Actuarial Standards of Practice.

This memorandum was prepared for the exclusive use of the IDOI. Any other reader understands that this memorandum was provided exclusively for the IDOI's sole benefit and use, and not for the benefit or use of the reader or any other third party. The reader acknowledges that this memorandum was prepared at the

direction of the IDOI and may not include all procedures or information deemed necessary for the purposes of the reader, and that certain findings and information may have been communicated to the IDOI that are not reflected in this memorandum. The reader further acknowledges that RRC makes no representations as to the sufficiency, accuracy, completeness, or appropriateness of this memorandum for the reader's purposes. The reader agrees that it does not acquire any rights as a result of access to this memorandum that it would not otherwise have had and acknowledges that RRC does not assume any duties or obligations to the reader in connection with such access to this memorandum. The reader of this memorandum agrees to release, indemnify and hold harmless RRC and its affiliates and their respective partners, principals, officers, directors, employees, contractors and representatives from and against any and all claims, actions, liabilities, damages, losses, costs or expenses (including reasonable attorneys' fees) incurred or suffered by or asserted against RRC as a result of the IDOI permitting the reader to access to the work or the reader's breach of the agreements herein. Any distribution of this memorandum must be in its entirety.