

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Health and Human Services
Department of Transitional Assistance
600 Washington Street • Boston MA 02111



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Field Operations Memo 96-2
March 1, 1996

TO: Local Office Staff

FROM: Joyce Sampson, Assistant Commissioner for Field Operations

RE: MEDEX Premium Rate Changes for NPA Food Stamps

Introduction

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Massachusetts has announced Medex premium rate changes to five non-group plans, Basic, Bronze, Gold, Standard and Silver. There are no rate changes to the Core plan. These changes were effective as of January 1996.

This memo:

- identifies the plans that have changed and the corresponding rate changes and those that have not changed;
 - identifies the date of the changes and the effect these changes will have on Food Stamps;
 - transmits information for the MEDEX Premium Rate - Update Report; and
 - provides instructions for accessing the new Food Stamp bonus values and the new MEDEX premium amounts on PACES.
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**MEDEX
Rate Changes**

The MEDEX plan type code and new monthly premium (if appropriate) are listed below.

PLAN	CODE	NEW MONTHLY PREMIUM
BASIC	1	\$85.23 (increased)
BRONZE	2	\$79.93 (increased)
GOLD	3	\$181.01 (increased)
STANDARD	4	\$137.26 (increased)
CORE	7	\$41.29 (no change)
SILVER	8	\$141.49 (increased)

**Date of Rate
Changes**

PACES was updated with the MEDEX premium rate changes in February to impact March Food Stamp benefits. Recipients that were updated received a PACES-generated notice informing them how their Food Stamp benefits will change. Recipients that were not updated did not receive a PACES-generated notice.

**Informational
Report**

Local office staff will receive two copies of the following report.

1996 MEDEX PREMIUM RATE - UPDATE REPORT.

This report identifies all cases updated in February and is for informational purposes only. The report is sorted by local office, CAN and alpha within CAN and includes the following data elements:

Case Name

Category

Case Social Security Number

Dependent Number

MEDEX Type

MEDEX Amount (Old and New)

**Updating
PACES
Screens**

Several PACES Screens will be updated with the new Food Stamp bonus values and/or new MEDEX premium amounts, if appropriate, as follows:

- the new Food Stamp bonus value will be displayed on the Case Data Screen (RECD) for non-pended transactions and on the Cases Pending Report Screen (PEND) for pended transactions.
- the new MEDEX premium amount will be displayed on the Financial Data Screen (GRT1) for non-pended transactions and on the Pending FIW1 Screen (PIW1) for pended transactions.

Questions

Policy questions should be directed to the Policy Hotline at (617) 348-8478. Systems-related questions should be directed to Customer Support Services at (617) 348-5290.
