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William D. O'Leary
Secretary

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Commissioner

Field Operations Memo 98-19
April 6, 1998

TO: Transitional Assistance Office Staff
FROM: Joyce Sampson, Assistant Commissioner for Field Operations
RE: Medex Premium Rate Changes

Introduction

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Massachusetts has announced Medex premium rate changes to six non-group plans, Basic, Bronze, Gold, Standard, Core and Silver. These changes were effective in March 1998.

This memo:

- identifies the plans that have changed and the corresponding rate changes;
 - identifies the date of the changes and the effect these changes will have on the amount of food stamp benefits;
 - transmits information for the Medex Premium Rate - Update Report; and
 - provides instructions for accessing the new food stamp bonus amounts and the new Medex premium amounts on PACES.
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**Medex Rate
Changes**

PLAN	CODE	NEW MONTHLY PREMIUM
BASIC	1	\$133.24
BRONZE	2	\$106.02
GOLD	3	\$258.39
STANDARD	4	\$194.36
CORE	7	\$56.77
SILVER	8	\$201.21

**Date of Rate
Changes**

PACES was updated on March 12th with the Medex premium rate changes to impact April food stamp benefits. Recipients that were updated received a PACES-generated notice informing them of a change to their food stamp benefits.

**Informational
Report**

Transitional Assistance Workers who have cases with Medex premium rate changes will receive two copies of the following report. One copy is for the Transitional Assistance Worker and the other copy is for the Transitional Assistance Worker's supervisor or manager.

1998 MEDEX PREMIUM RATE - UPDATE REPORT

This report identifies all cases updated in March and is for informational purposes only. The report includes the following data elements:

Case Name

Category

Case Social Security Number

Dependent Number

**Informational
Report (cont.)**

Medex Type

Old Medex Amount

New Medex Amount

**Transitional
Assistance
Offices Not
Receiving
A Report**

The following Transitional Assistance Offices will not receive a distribution of reports because they have no cases identified with Medex premiums on file: Boston Family Housing, Bowdoin Park, Brockton, Fall River SSI, Grove Hall, Grove Hall SSI, Nantucket, Newmarket Square Homeless Unit, North Shore, Oak Bluffs, Quincy Centralized Unit, Roslindale, Taunton and Wareham.

**Identifying
Recipients
Enrolled In
Medex**

Reminder: Transitional Assistance Workers are advised of the importance of identifying recipients enrolled in Medex. To ensure case accuracy and the correct calculation of benefits, Medex premium payments must be entered on the PACES Worksheet using the proper code. Refer to the *PACES User's Guide*, Chapter IV: PACES Worksheet for complete information on the Med Prem and Cd fields displayed in the FIW1 Section of the Worksheet.

**Updating
PACES
Screens**

Several PACES Screens have been updated with the new food stamp bonus amounts and/or new Medex premium amounts, if appropriate, as follows:

- the new food stamp bonus amounts will be displayed on the PACES Case Data Screen (RECD) for non-pended transactions and on the Cases Pending Report Screen (PRPT) 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.
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Questions

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