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*Executive Office of Health and Human Services*  
**Department of Transitional Assistance**  
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**Field Operations Memo 2007-24**  
**March 22, 2007**

**To:** Transitional Assistance Office Staff  
**From:**  John Augeri, Assistant Commissioner for Field Operations  
**Re:** Medex Premium Rate Changes

**Overview**

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Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Massachusetts has announced Medex premium rate changes to the following non-group plans: Basic, Bronze, Core, Core Plus, Gold, Silver, and Standard. These changes are effective on March 15, 2007.

This memo:

- identifies the non-group plans that have changed and the corresponding rate changes;
- provides information on updates to food stamp benefits and the Medex premium amounts; and
- gives information about the 2007 Medex Premium Rate Change Report.

**Medex Rate Changes**

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<b>Plan</b>	<b>New Monthly Premium</b>
GOLD	<b>\$ 649.95</b>
SILVER	<b>\$ 491.63</b>
STANDARD	<b>\$ 461.79</b>
BASIC	<b>\$ 338.97</b>
CORE PLUS	<b>\$ 162.15</b>
BRONZE	<b>\$ 157.28</b>
CORE	<b>\$ 88.81</b>

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**Rate Changes  
on BEACON**

BEACON has been updated to impact April food stamp benefits with the new Medex premium amounts for participating AUs as follows:

- the new food stamp benefit amounts will be displayed on the *Results Tab* for non-pended transactions and on *Interview Wrap-up* with a status of *Pending Release* for pended transactions;  
**Note:** The transaction will pend only if the Medex premium update results in a decrease or there is another transaction pending in *Interview Wrap-up*.
- the new Medex premium amount will be displayed on the *Health Insurance* window, *Policy* tab.

Updated AUs will receive a BEACON-generated notice informing them of a change to their April food stamp benefits.

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**2007 Medex  
Premium  
Rate Change  
Report**

An electronic copy of the 2007 Medex Premium Rate Change Report is being e-mailed with this memo.

The report identifies all AUs updated in March, is for informational purposes and includes the following data elements:

- TAO Name;
  - AU Manager;
  - AU Name;
  - AU SSN;
  - Medex Type;
  - Premium;
  - Old Benefit Amount; and
  - New Benefit Amount.
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**TAOs Not  
Receiving  
Report**

The following TAOs will *not* receive a distribution of the report because they have no AUs with Medex premiums on file: Boston Family Housing, Centralized TAFDC, Falmouth, Fitchburg and Greenfield.

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**Identifying  
Recipients  
Enrolled in  
Medex**

When processing applications and recertifications, AU Managers are reminded of the importance of identifying recipients enrolled in Medex. Proper coding ensures that the AU receives the correct benefit amount and that the AU will be properly updated automatically each year. To ensure AU accuracy and the correct calculation of food stamp benefits, Medex premium payments must be entered on the *Health Insurance* window, *Policy* tab, *Insurer*: Blue Cross. The specific Medex option will populate the *Benefit Type* dropdown list on the *Benefits* tab.

Please refer to A User's Guide: Transitional Assistance Programs and BEACON, Chapter XIV- J for procedures to update any incorrect information.

**Questions**

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If you have any questions, please have your Hotline designee call the Policy Hotline at 617-348-8478.

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