



Commonwealth of Massachusetts
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Field Operations Memo 2009-2
January 16, 2009

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

Overview

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Massachusetts has announced Medex premium rate changes for the following non-group plans: Bronze, Core, Core Plus, Gold, Silver, and Standard. These changes were effective on January 1, 2009.

This memo:

- identifies the non-group plans that have changed and the corresponding rate changes;
- provides information on updates to SNAP benefits and the Medex premium amounts; and
- gives information about the 2009 Medex Premium Rate Change Report.

Medex Rate Changes

| Plan | New Monthly Premium |
|-------------|----------------------------|
| GOLD | \$ 665.70 |
| SILVER | \$ 490.89 |
| STANDARD | \$ 475.23 |
| BASIC | \$ 351.15 |
| CORE PLUS | \$ 154.12 |
| BRONZE | \$ 162.26 |
| CORE | \$ 85.92 |

Rate Changes on BEACON

BEACON will be updated to impact February SNAP benefits with the new Medex premium amounts for participating households as follows:

- the new SNAP 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;
- the new Medex premium amount will be displayed on the Health Insurance window, Policy tab.

Updated households will receive a BEACON-generated notice informing them of a change to their February SNAP benefits that was affected by Medex and COLA.

2009 Medex Premium Rate Change Report

An electronic copy of the 2009 Medex Premium Rate Change Report will be e-mailed to TAOs during the week of January 26, 2009 by MIS.

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

- TAO Name;
 - Case Manager;
 - Case Name;
 - Case SSN;
 - Medex Type;
 - Premium;
 - Old Benefit Amount; and
 - New Benefit Amount.
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**Identifying
Clients Enrolled
in Medex**

When processing applications and recertifications, case managers are reminded of the importance of identifying clients enrolled in Medex. Proper coding ensures that the household receives the correct benefit amount and that the Medex amount will be properly updated automatically each year. To ensure accuracy and the correct calculation of SNAP benefits, Medex premium payments must be entered on the Health Insurance window, Policy tab, Insurer: Blue Cross. The case manager must make sure to select the correct Benefit Type from the 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

If you have any questions, please have your Hotline designee call the Policy Hotline.
