



Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Health and Human Services
Department of Transitional Assistance
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Operations Memo 2013-1
January 17, 2013

To: Department of Transitional Assistance Staff

From:  Stephanie Brown, Assistant Commissioner for Policy, Program and External Relations

Re: SNAP – Medex Premium Rate Changes

Overview

Medex is a Medicare supplement policy that is offered through Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Massachusetts (BCBSMA). BCBSMA has announced Medex premium rate changes for the following non-group plans: Bronze (Supplement 1), Core, Gold, Silver, Standard, Basic, Core Plus, Basic No Rx and Core Plus No Rx. The rates this year have decreased from 2012 rates.

Important: Enrollment in BCBSMA Medex plans is currently limited to Bronze and Core. However, certain clients may still be enrolled in the other non-group Medex plans; the rates are included in this Operations Memo.

These changes were effective on January 1, 2013.

This Operations 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 2013 Medex Premium Rate Change Report.
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**Medex Rate
Changes**

Plan **New Monthly
Premium**

BRONZE	\$183.73
CORE	\$ 96.38
GOLD	\$651.85
SILVER	\$471.16
STANDARD	\$460.02
BASIC	\$349.71
CORE PLUS	\$153.83
BASIC NO RX	\$178.59
CORE PLUS NO RX	\$128.62

**Rate Changes
on BEACON**

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

- the new SNAP benefit amounts will be displayed on the Results tab for non-pended transactions and on Interview Wrapup with a status of Pending Release for pended transactions;
- the new Medex premium amount will be displayed on the Health Insurance page, Policy tab.

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

**2013 Medex
Premium
Rate Change
Report**

An electronic copy of the 2013 Medex Premium Rate Change Report will be e-mailed to TAOs during the week of January 28, 2013. The report will identify all cases updated and will include the following data elements:

- TAO Name;
- Case Manager (Last and First);
- Client Name (Last and First);
- Client SSN;
- Insurance Benefit Type;
- Monthly Premium Amount;
- Benefit Amount; and
- Previous Benefit Amount.

The report is for informational purposes. **No case manager action is required.**

**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, case managers must select the correct Medex plan from the dropdown list on the Benefits tab. BEACON will automatically enter the premium amount for the Medex plan selected.

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.

Systems questions should be directed to the EOHHS Customer Service Center.
