

March 7, 2014

eBulletin



215.355.2121 • www.totalbenefitsinc.com

July 1 rate increase for individual medically underwritten plans

We want to let you know that the monthly rates for our individual medically underwritten plans will increase in July 2014. We are notifying members much earlier than is required to give them the opportunity to enroll in a plan that is compliant with the Affordable Care Act (ACA).

The reason for the rate increase

We understand that it can be difficult to afford quality health insurance coverage. While we continue to work hard to keep costs down, the cost of health care continues to rise along with our member utilization. This is why it's necessary for Independence Blue Cross (IBC) to implement an 11.5 percent rate increase.

Since our rates are based on five-year age brackets, some members will receive an additional increase if the oldest person covered under their plan moved into a new age bracket (e.g. 40–44, 45–49) between July 2, 2013 – July 1, 2014 (for July 1 bills) and between July 16, 2013 – July 15, 2014 (for July 15 bills).

Members may qualify for lower cost plans

Members may keep their current plan through the end of 2014, or they can choose to enroll in a new ACA-compliant plan. If members enroll in a new plan, they may qualify for a subsidy that will lower their premiums. Additionally, they may qualify for plans with lower cost-sharing. Members can determine their eligibility for these types of subsidies by using our subsidy estimator at ibx4you.com/newoptions, calling 1-888-249-2118, or contacting their broker. Members must enroll by March 31, 2014 (unless they experience a life event change). If they miss this date, the next available coverage effective date is January 1, 2015. To avoid a gap in coverage, members should keep their current plan until their new plan begins.

To learn more about these plans, members can visit ibx4you.com/newoptions, call 1-888-249-2118, or contact their broker for assistance.

Communications

We will notify all HMO and PPO individual medically underwritten plan members next week. Members who are eligible for Medicare will receive a custom letter encouraging them to contact our Medicare sales team at 1-877-393-6733 to learn more about the Medicare options available to them.

View the member letters:

[Standard rate increase](#)

[Standard rate and age band increase](#)

[Rate increase for Medicare-eligible](#)

[Rate and age band increase for Medicare-eligible](#)

[View the rate sheet](#)

ibx.com



9/14

Independence Blue Cross

QCC Insurance Company, and with Highmark Blue Shield. Independent licensees of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association.