



**Commonwealth of Massachusetts**  
*Executive Office of Health and Human Services*  
**Department of Transitional Assistance**  
600 Washington Street • Boston, MA 02111

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Lieutenant Governor

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JOHN A. WAGNER  
Commissioner

**Field Operations Memo 2003-9**  
**March 21, 2003**

**To:** Transitional Assistance Office Staff

**From:** *cd* Cescia Derderian, Assistant Commissioner for Field Operations

**Re:** Medex Premium Rate Changes

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**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 on March 17, 2003.

This memo:

- identifies the non-group 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 information on updates to food stamp benefits and the Medex premium amounts.
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**Medex Rate Changes**

<b>Plan</b>	<b>New Monthly Premium</b>
BASIC	\$ 206.97
BRONZE	\$ 124.08
GOLD	\$ 414.23
STANDARD	\$ 305.48
CORE	\$ 72.56
SILVER	\$ 322.54

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**Date of Rate Changes**

BEACON was updated with the Medex premium rate changes on March 17 to impact April food stamp benefits. Updated recipients received a BEACON-generated notice informing them of a change to their food stamp benefits.

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**2003 MEDEX PREMIUM RATE - UPDATE Report**

Transitional Assistance Offices that have AUs with Medex premium rate changes will receive one copy of this report (e-mailed the week of March 17), for each AU Manager.

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

AU Name	Medex Type
Program	Old Medex Amount
AU Social Security Number	New Medex Amount
Dependent Number	Old FS Amount
	New FS Amount

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**TAOs Not Receiving Report**

The following TAOs will not receive a distribution of reports because they have no AUs with Medex premiums on file: Boston Family Housing and Fall River SSI.

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**Identifying  
Recipients  
Enrolled in  
Medex**

AU Managers are reminded of the importance of identifying recipients enrolled in Medex. To ensure AU accuracy and the correct calculation of food stamp benefits, Medex premium payments must be entered on the Health Insurance window under Benefit Type.

Failure to identify these AUs as “Medex” recipients will prevent them from being automatically updated.

Refer to *A User’s Guide: Transitional Assistance Programs and BEACON*, Chapter XIV- J.

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**Updated  
BEACON**

BEACON has been updated with the new food stamp benefit amounts and/or new Medex premium amounts, if appropriate, 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*.
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**Questions**

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

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