



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


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Field Operations Memo 2006-17
March 23, 2006

To: Transitional Assistance Office Staff
From:  Cescia Derderian, Assistant Commissioner for Field Operations
Re: Medex Premium Rate Changes

Introduction

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 were effective on March 15, 2006.

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
- transmits information about the 2006 Medex Premium Rate Change Report.

Medex Rate Changes

Plan	New Monthly Premium
GOLD	\$ 596.28
SILVER	\$ 466.09
STANDARD	\$ 419.81
BASIC	\$ 309.77
CORE PLUS	\$ 158.06**
BRONZE	\$ 148.52
CORE	\$ 80.81

** Premium decreased from 2005

**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.

**2006 Medex
Premium
Rate Change
Report**

An electronic copy of the 2006 Medex Premium Rate Change Report is being e-mailed with this memo.

The report identifies all AUs updated in March, is for informational purposes only 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, Greenfield, and Springfield State.

**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.

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

Questions

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