



Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Health and Human Services
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Field Operations Memo 2008-13
March 20, 2008

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: Basic, Bronze, Core, Core Plus, Gold, Silver, and Standard. These changes are effective on March 15, 2008.

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
- gives information about the 2008 Medex Premium Rate Change Report.

Medex Rate Changes

Plan	New Monthly Premium
GOLD	\$ 676.53
SILVER	\$ 498.10
STANDARD	\$ 477.93
BASIC	\$ 351.15
CORE PLUS **	\$ 158.32
BRONZE	\$ 162.65
CORE **	\$ 87.72

** Premium decreased from 2007

Rate Changes on BEACON

BEACON will be updated to impact April Food Stamp benefits with the new Medex premium amounts for participating households 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 households will receive a BEACON-generated notice informing them of a change to their April Food Stamp benefits.

2008 Medex Premium Rate Change Report

An electronic copy of the 2008 Medex Premium Rate Change Report will be e-mailed during the week of March 24.

The report identifies all cases updated in March, is for informational purposes 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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Identifying Recipients Enrolled in Medex

When processing applications and recertifications, AU 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 Food Stamp benefits, Medex premium payments must be entered on the *Health Insurance* window, *Policy* tab, *Insurer:* Blue Cross. The AU 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 at 617-348-8478.
