



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

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Governor

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Secretary

Claire McIntire  
Commissioner

**Field Operations Memo 2001-6**  
**February 16, 2001**

**To:** Transitional Assistance Office Staff

**From:** Joyce Sampson, 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 six non-group plans, Basic, Bronze, Gold, Standard, Core and Silver. These changes were effective February 1, 2001.

This memo:

- identifies the 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 about updates to food stamp benefits and the Medex premium amounts on PACES.

**NOTE:** BEACON will be updated with the new amounts during the next data conversion. This is scheduled for 2/15/01. Converted data will be available in Release 2.0 Pilot on 2/22/01.

**Medex Rate  
Changes**

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Plan	Code	New Monthly Premium
BASIC	1	\$171.37
BRONZE	2	\$121.13
GOLD	3	\$342.97
STANDARD	4	\$252.93
CORE	7	\$65.14
SILVER	8	\$267.06

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**Date of Rate  
Changes**

PACES was updated on February 12 with the Medex premium rate changes to impact March food stamp benefits. Recipients updated received a PACES-generated notice informing them of a change to their food stamp benefits.

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**Informational  
Report**

Transitional Assistance Offices that have Assistance Units (AUs) affected by Medex premium rate changes will receive two copies of the following report. One copy is for the AU Manager and the other is for the AU Supervisor.

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**2001 MEDEX PREMIUM RATE - UPDATE REPORT**

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This report identifies all cases updated in February and is for informational purposes only. The report includes the following data elements:

Case Name

Category

Case Social Security Number

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**Informational  
Report (cont.)**

Dependent Number

Medex Type

Old Medex Amount

New Medex Amount

Old FS Amount

New FS Amount

**Transitional  
Assistance  
Offices Not  
Receiving A  
Report**

The following Transitional Assistance Offices will not receive a distribution of reports because they have no cases with Medex premiums on file: Boston Family Housing, Brockton, Centralized TAFDC, Dorchester, Fall River SSI, Greenfield, Northampton, North Shore, Roslindale, Roslindale SSI, Springfield State, Taunton, Wareham.

**Identifying  
Recipients  
Enrolled in Medex**

Reminder: AU Managers are advised 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 PACES Worksheet using the proper code. Refer to the *PACES User's Guide*, Chapter IV: PACES Worksheet for complete information on the Med Prem and Cd fields displayed in the FIW1 Section of the Worksheet.

**Updated PACES  
Screens**

Several PACES screens have been updated with the new food stamp benefit amount and/or new Medex premium amount as follows:

- the new food stamp benefit amount will be displayed on the PACES Case Data Screen (RECD) for non-pended transactions and on the Cases Pending Report Screen (PRPT) for pended transactions.
- the new Medex premium amount will be displayed on the Financial Data Screen (GRT1) for non-pended transactions and on the Pending FIW1 Screen (PIW1) for pended transactions.

**Questions**

Policy-related questions should be directed to the Policy Hotline at (617) 348-8478. Systems-related questions should be directed to the Customer Service Center at (617) 348-5290.

