

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

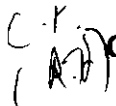
JANE SWIFT  
Governor

ROBERT P. GITTENS  
Secretary

CLAIRE MCINTIRE  
Commissioner

Field Operations Memo 2002-4  
March 26, 2002

**To:** Transitional Assistance Office Staff

**From:**  Cescia Derderian, Acting 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 25, 2002.

**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 of updates to food stamp benefits and the Medex premium amounts.
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**Medex Rate  
Changes**

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<b>Plan</b>	<b>New Monthly Premium</b>
BASIC	\$188.33
BRONZE	\$123.82
GOLD	\$376.92
STANDARD	\$277.97
CORE	\$ 66.32
SILVER	\$293.49

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**Date of Rate  
Changes**

BEACON was updated on March 25 with the Medex premium rate changes 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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**Informational  
Report**

**2002 MEDEX PREMIUM RATE - UPDATE REPORT**

Transitional Assistance Offices that have AUs with Medex premium rate changes will receive two copies of this report, one copy for the AU Manager and the other for the TAO Supervisor.

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

AU Name

Program

AU 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

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**Transitional  
Assistance  
Offices Not  
Receiving A  
Report**

The following Transitional Assistance Offices will not receive a distribution of reports because they have no AUs with Medex premiums on file:  
Boston Family Housing, Fall River SSI, Greenfield, Roslindale, Springfield/State.

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

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**Updated BEACON**

BEACON screens have 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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