



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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Commissioner

Field Operations Memo 2000-14
March 20, 2000

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 in March 2000.

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 of updates to food stamp benefits and the Medex premium amounts on PACES.

**Medex Rate
Changes**

Plan	Code	New Monthly Premium
BASIC	1	\$160.92
BRONZE	2	\$111.47
GOLD	3	\$312.08
STANDARD	4	\$231.37
CORE	7	\$64.83
SILVER	8	\$243.01

**Date of Rate
Changes**

PACES was updated on March 15 with the Medex premium rate changes to impact April food stamp benefits. Recipients who were updated received a PACES-generated notice informing them of a change to their food stamp benefits.

**Informational
Report**

Transitional Assistance Offices that have cases with Medex premium rate changes will receive two copies of the following report. One copy is for the Transitional Assistance Worker and the other copy is for the Transitional Assistance Worker's supervisor or manager.

2000 MEDEX PREMIUM RATE - UPDATE REPORT

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

Case Name

Category

Case Social Security Number

**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 identified with Medex premiums on file: **Boston Family Housing, Brockton, Centralized TAFDC, Dorchester, Fall River SSI, Hyannis, North Shore, Roslindale, Roslindale SSI, Springfield State, Taunton, Wareham.**

**Identifying
Recipients
Enrolled in Medex**

Reminder: Transitional Assistance Workers are advised of the importance of identifying recipients enrolled in Medex. To ensure case 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.

**Updating PACES
Screens**

Several PACES 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 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.