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Joseph Gallant
Secretary
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Field Operations Memo 97-19
April 1, 1997

To: Local Office Staff
From: Joyce Sampson, Assistant Commissioner For Field Operations
Re: Medex Premium Rate Changes For NPA Food Stamps

Introduction

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Massachusetts has announced Medex premium rate changes to six non-group plans, Basic, Bronze, Gold, Standard, Silver and Core. These changes were effective as of March 1997.

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 instructions for accessing the new food stamp bonus values and the new Medex premium amounts on PACES.
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Medex Rate Changes

The Medex plan type code and new monthly premiums are listed below.

PLAN	CODE	NEW MONTHLY PREMIUM
BASIC	1	\$116.58 (increased)
BRONZE	2	\$ 95.87 (increased)
GOLD	3	\$228.30 (increased)
STANDARD	4	\$166.35 (increased)
CORE	7	\$ 54.76 (increased)
SILVER	8	\$172.42 (increased)

Date of Rate Changes

PACES was updated with the Medex premium rate changes in March to impact April food stamp benefits. Recipients that were updated received a PACES-generated notice informing them how their food stamp benefits will change. Recipients that were not updated did not receive a PACES-generated notice.

Informational Report

Local office staff who have cases with Medex premium rate changes will receive two copies of the following report.

1997 MEDEX PREMIUM RATE - UPDATE REPORT

This report identifies all cases updated in March and is for informational purposes only. The report is sorted by local office, CAN and alpha within CAN and includes the following data elements:

Case Name

Category

**Informational
Report (Continued)**

Case Social Security Number

Dependent Number

Medex Type

Medex Amount (Old and New)

**Local Offices With
No Reports**

The following offices will receive no reports as they have no cases with Medex premiums on file: Boston Family Housing, Bowdoin Park, Brockton, Grove Hall, Newmarket Square Homeless Unit, Northampton, Quincy Centralized Unit, Roslindale, Springfield State, Taunton and Wareham.

The number of large offices having no cases with Medex premiums on file suggests that cases with Medex premiums may be coded incorrectly or not coded at all.

Workers are reminded of the importance of identifying recipients enrolled in Medex. To ensure case accuracy and the correct calculation of benefits, Medex premium payments must be entered on the PACES Worksheet using the proper code. Refer to *PACES User's Guide*, Chapter IV: PACES Worksheet for complete information on the Med Prem and Cd fields of the FIW1 section of the Worksheet.

**Updating
PACES Screens**

Several PACES Screens will be updated with the new food stamp bonus values and/or new Medex premium amounts, if appropriate, as follows:

- the new food stamp bonus value will be displayed on the Case Data Screen (RECD) for non-pended transactions and on the Cases Pending Report Screen (PEND) 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 Customer Support Services at (617) 348-5290.
