



*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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Lieutenant Governor

Claire McIntire  
Commissioner

**Field Operations Memo 99-7**  
**March 19, 1999**

**TO: Transitional Assistance Office Staff**  
**FROM: Joyce Sampson, 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 in March 1999.

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 benefit amounts and the new Medex premium amounts on PACES.
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**Medex Rate  
Changes**

PLAN	CODE	NEW MONTHLY PREMIUM
BASIC	1	\$146.43
BRONZE	2	\$110.54
GOLD	3	\$283.97
STANDARD	4	\$211.65
CORE	7	\$58.99
SILVER	8	\$221.12

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**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.

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**Informational  
Report**

Transitional Assistance Workers who 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.

**1999 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

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**Informational  
Report (cont.)**

Dependent Number

Medex Type

Old Medex Amount

New Medex 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 cases identified with Medex premiums on file: Boston Family Housing, Bowdoin Park, Brockton, Fall River SSI, Greenfield, Grove Hall, Grove Hall SSI, Holyoke, Nantucket, North Shore, Centralized TAFDC, Roslindale, Taunton and Wareham.

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**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.

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**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.
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**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.

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