



**Commonwealth of Massachusetts**  
**Executive Office of Health and Human Services**  
**Division of Medical Assistance**  
600 Washington Street  
Boston, MA 02111

**MassHealth**  
**Long-Term-Care Facility Bulletin 67**  
**February 1999**

**TO:** Nursing Facilities, Chronic Disease and Rehabilitation Inpatient Hospitals, and Rest Homes Participating in MassHealth

**FROM:** Bruce M. Bullen, Commissioner

**RE: MEDEX PREMIUM RATE INCREASE**

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**Background**

Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Massachusetts has received approval from the Division of Insurance to increase premium rates for all of its nongroup Medex plans: Medex Gold, Medex Silver, Medex Standard, Medex Bronze, and Medex Core effective March 15, 1999.

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**Rate Changes**

The old quarterly rate, new quarterly rate, and new monthly premium for each Medex plan appear below. The new monthly premium is the amount allowed as a patient-paid amount (PPA) deduction. Fees for special billing arrangements that cause a premium to exceed these amounts are not allowable PPA deductions.

MEDEX PLAN	OLD QUARTERLY RATE	NEW QUARTERLY RATE	NEW MONTHLY PREMIUM
Gold	\$ 775.17	\$ 851.91	\$ 283.97
Silver	603.63	663.36	221.12
Standard	583.08	634.95	211.65
Basic	399.72	439.29	146.43
Bronze	318.06	331.62	110.54
Core	170.31	176.97	58.99

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**PPA Adjustments**

Although the rate increase is not effective until March 15, 1999, the Division will allow the higher premium deduction for the PPA calculation as of March 1, 1999. The Division's computer system will be updated with the increased rates and will recalculate PPAs, effective March 1, 1999, for all members receiving Medex. During the month of March 1999, notices containing information about the PPA changes will be mailed to affected members, conservators, and nursing facilities.

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***Questions***

Questions about this bulletin should be directed to the MassHealth Policy Hotline at (617) 210-5331.

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