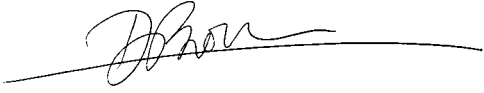




Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Health and Human Services
Division of Medical Assistance
600 Washington Street
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MassHealth
Long Term Care Facility Bulletin 83
April 2003

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

FROM: Douglas S. Brown, Acting Commissioner 

RE: Medex Premium Rate Increase

Background

Blue Cross and 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 Basic, Medex Bronze, and Medex Core, effective May 1, 2003.

Rate Changes

The Medex plans, old quarterly rates, new quarterly rates, and new monthly premiums appear in the chart 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	\$1,130.76	\$1,242.69	\$414.23
Silver	\$ 880.47	\$ 967.62	\$322.54
Standard	\$ 833.91	\$ 916.44	\$305.48
Basic	\$ 564.99	\$ 620.91	\$206.97
Bronze	\$ 371.46	\$ 372.24	\$124.08
Core	\$ 198.96	\$ 217.68	\$ 72.56

PPA Adjustments

Although the rate increase is not effective until May 1, 2003, the Division will allow the higher premium deduction for the PPA calculation as of April 1, 2003. The Division updated its computer system with the increased rates and recalculated PPAs for all affected long-term-care Medex members, effective April 1, 2003. During the month of April 2003, system-generated notices containing information about the new PPAs will be mailed to affected long-term-care members, conservators, and nursing facilities.

Questions

Questions about information in this bulletin should be directed as follows:

- ◆ for claims issues: please call MassHealth Provider Services at 617-628-4141 or 1-800-325-5231; or
 - ◆ for questions about a member's health insurance, including Medex, please call the MassHealth Enrollment Center.
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