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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Pursuant to M.G.L. c. 30A, § 2 and M.G.L. c. 6D, the Health Policy Commission (the "Commission") will hold a public hearing regarding the following regulations related to the Office of Patient Protection (OPP):

958 CMR 3.000 – Health Insurance Consumer Protection
958 CMR 4.000 – Health Insurance Open Enrollment Waivers

Scheduled hearing date and location:

Wednesday, July 8, 2015, 9:30 AM
Health Policy Commission
50 Milk Street, 8th Floor
Boston, MA 02109

The proposed updates to 958 CMR 3.000 are authorized by M.G.L. c. 6D, §16 and M.G.L. c. 176O as amended by Chapter 165 of the Acts of 2014. The proposed updates to 958 CMR 4.000 are authorized by M.G.L. c. 6D, §16 and M.G.L. c. 176J.

958 CMR 3.000 has been updated to bring the OPP regulation into compliance with amended Massachusetts law. The amended law clarifies that plan members, prospective plan members, and their health care providers may obtain medical necessity criteria, including proprietary criteria from their health plans. The changes to this regulation will clarify the parameters of access to proprietary and non-proprietary medical necessity criteria for market participants.

958 CMR 4.000 sets forth the waiver process for consumers who are seeking to buy non-group insurance outside of the open enrollment periods. It has been revised to bring the OPP regulation into compliance with certain eligibility rules that have been changed in the Affordable Care Act and related Massachusetts law.

The Commission encourages all interested parties to submit written testimony and comments to the following address: HPC-regulations@state.ma.us. All submissions must include the sender's full name and address. Parties who are unable to submit electronic comments should mail submissions to Jenifer Bosco, Director, Office of Patient Protection, Health Policy Commission, 50 Milk Street, 8th Floor, Boston, MA 02109. **All testimony and comments must be received by 5:00 PM on August 7, 2015.**

All written or oral comments submitted to the Commission may be posted on the Commission's website and released in response to a request for public records.