

Important Information for Group Plan Administrators

This information is intended for group plan administrators in your organization who administer Medical Services Plan (MSP) coverage and need to be aware of upcoming changes:

- **MSP premiums and the Regular Premium Assistance program are changing effective Jan. 1, 2017.** MSP premiums will no longer be charged for children under the age of 19 years. MSP premium rates will be determined by the number of adults on an MSP account. This can be one or two people: the MSP account holder and a spouse, if applicable.
- Even though the planned four per cent premium rate increase for January was cancelled Sept. 15, 2016, premium rates for many of your group members will change effective Jan. 1, 2017.
- In addition, group members who receive Regular Premium Assistance will see at least a four per cent reduction in their rates beginning Jan. 1, 2017.

For group plan administrators, these changes may impact your business processes in a number of ways. Efforts are underway to help you prepare for the changes ahead and ensure your transition is as seamless as possible – with little or no impact to your group members. These efforts include:

1. **Online Assistance to Help you Prepare:** If these changes mean you need to make payroll adjustments and revise employee deductions, comprehensive information is available online to assist you. See the MSP website at <http://gov.bc.ca/groupplanadministrators>. Click on “MSP Premium Changes.” Information and FAQ sections are updated regularly.
2. **December Invoice (for January Premiums) will be Sent Early & Show Employees with Changed Premiums:** Production and distribution of the invoice for January 2017 premiums will begin in early December 2016 to allow extra lead time for you to prepare. This will include identifying employees whose premium amount will change as a result of the 2017 rates.

Sample December Invoice for January 2017 Premiums

While the group invoice design is not changing, the data in the existing invoice design will change as indicated in the invoice sample below. The “RATE” column will reflect the new premium rate codes, the “CURRENT” column will show the new premium rate amount, and the “CODE” column with a number “9” will indicate accounts where the premium amount for 2017 is different than 2016:

ACCT	NAME	SIZE	RATE	CURRENT	ADJUST	CODE	BALANCE
0000001	M O Smith	04	C	150.00	0.00		150.00
0000002	J L Jones	03	C	150.00	0.00		150.00
0000003	B F Johnson	04	C	75.00	0.00	9	75.00
0000004	T R McDonald	10	J	23.00	0.00	9	23.00
0000005	R H Green	06	L	92.00	46.00	C9	92.00
0000006	K G Anderson	02	C	150.00	0.00	9	150.00
0000007	O P Douglas	03	K	35.00	-35.00	D9	35.00

Looking at this invoice sample and using the MSP Premium Rates Transition Table (on reverse), the following can be determined:

1. Smith, family of 4 = 2 adults, 2 children with Adjusted Net Income (ANI) over \$42,000.00. Same premium rate as 2016.
2. Jones, family of 3 = 2 adults, 1 child with ANI over \$42,000.00. Same premium rate as 2016.
3. Johnson, family of 4 = 1 adult, 3 children with ANI over \$42,000.00. New premium rate for 2017 as indicated by "9" in Code column.
4. McDonald, family of 10 = 1 adult, 9 children with ANI \$26,001 - \$28,000. New premium rate for 2017 indicated by "9" in Code column.
5. Green, family of 6, 2 adults, 4 children, including new spouse/dependent added with ANI \$30,001 - \$34,000. New premium rate for 2017 indicated by "9" in Code column, as well as "C" for "Add Dependent".
6. Anderson, two adults with ANI above \$42,000 – no longer discounted for couples. New premium rate for 2017 as indicated by "9" – increase of \$14.
7. Douglas, family of 3 = 1 adult, 2 children with ANI \$28,001- \$30,000. Spouse has been cancelled from account since the last invoice. New premium rate for 2017 as indicated by "9" in Code column, as well as "D" for "Cancelled Coverage".

MSP Premium Rates Transition Table

2016 (Current Rates)					January 2017 (New Rates: Updated Sept. 15, 2016)				
Rate Code	Adjusted Net Income	One Person	Family of Two	Family of Three or More	Rate Code	Adjusted Net Income	One Adult	Two Adults in a Family	Family of Three or More
A	\$0 - \$22,000	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	H	\$0 - \$24,000	\$0.00	\$0.00	No premiums for children
B	\$22,001 - \$24,000	\$12.80	\$23.20	\$25.60					
F	\$24,001 - \$26,000	\$25.60	\$46.40	\$51.20					
G	\$26,001 - \$28,000	\$38.40	\$69.60	\$76.80					
E	\$28,001 - \$30,000	\$51.20	\$92.80	\$102.40					
C	Over \$30,000	\$75.00	\$136.00	\$150.00	L	\$30,001 - \$34,000	\$46.00	\$92.00	
					M	\$34,001 - \$38,000	\$56.00	\$112.00	
					N	\$38,001 - \$42,000	\$65.00	\$130.00	
					C	Over \$42,000	\$75.00	\$150.00	

Questions?

For general questions about your invoice or payment related questions, please call Revenue Services of British Columbia at **1 844 248-6631**.

For questions regarding the MSP Premium rates and Regular Premium Assistance project, please email: **dist.EnrolmentPremiumsAndPremiumAssistance@maximusbc.ca**.

MSP is administered by Health Insurance BC on behalf of the Government of British Columbia.

Phone (Lower Mainland): 604 683-7520

Toll-free (Rest of B.C.): 1 877 955-5656

Website: www.gov.bc.ca/medicalservesplan