

Rate Increases for Certain Anthem Individual Health Plans

The Maine Bureau of Insurance has approved a rate increase of 13.4% which is effective on Jan. 1, 2015 for certain Anthem individual health insurance customers in Maine – those who have individual grandfathered and grandmothered health benefit plans.

The grandfathered plans were purchased prior to the law passing and people can not be kicked off these plans. The grandmothered plans are those purchased after the law passed and people will lose these plans by 2016, but currently have an extension.

Visit [our health and life insurance page.](#)

If you have questions or need help with health insurance under the Affordable Care Act, you can call our special health insurance line: (855) 710-5700.

Saving on Car Insurance

It can be easier than you think to put the brakes on high car insurance rates. As an independent agency, we can help by reviewing your car insurance policy and possibly helping you find a variety of illuminating ways to save money. Here are some things you may want to consider:

- Ask us to check several companies' rates. This is the single most important thing you can do to get the best possible rate—and we can do it for you quickly and easily. The difference between the highest and lowest rate

available to you from different companies could vary by hundreds of dollars.

- Reduce or drop physical damage coverage on an older car. Depending on your car's age and where you live, comprehensive and collision coverage may not be worth keeping. We can give you advice on whether it makes sense to reduce or drop this coverage altogether.
- Raise your deductible. According to the Insurance Information Institute, raising your deductible from \$200 to \$500 could reduce your collision and comprehensive cost by 15 to 30 percent. In addition, because the average driver files a collision claim only once every ten years, odds are that over the lifetime of your car, a higher deductible will save you money. We can show you how raising your deductible will lower your premium.
- Look for discounts. Many insurance companies reduce premiums for certain driver traits or car features. For example: being a homeowner for more than three years, nonsmoker, nondrinker, students with good grades, senior citizens who have taken an approved defensive driving course, people who only drive for pleasure, cars kept in garages, antilock brakes, antitheft devices, air bags, etc. Ask us to check.
- Don't assume having your car and home insured by the same company is the best option. Because auto insurance rates vary so much from company to company, it may make sense for you to have your car and home insured by separate companies.

Source: Progressive.com

Know Your Cyber Risks

Cyber crime is booming. And most businesses don't have the protection they need for the time when their systems are breached. This protection comes in two basic forms: the firewalls and other technology needed to keep hackers out and insurance coverage for what happens after they make their way in.

[A new report by the Zurich Insurance Group and Atlantic Council](#) highlights seven different aggregations of cyber risk.

1. Internal IT: The cumulative of an organization's IT. Examples: Hardware, software, servers, related people and processes.
2. Counterparties and partners: Dependence on or direct interconnection with an outside organization. Examples: Research partnerships, relationships between competing or cooperating banks, industry associations and joint ventures.
3. Outsourced and contract: External suppliers of services, including HR, IT and legal. Examples: IT and cloud providers, HR, legal and accounting consultancy, contract manufacturing.
4. Supply chain. Examples: Exposure to a single country, counterfeit or tampered products, risks of disrupted supply chain.
5. Disruptive technologies: Unseen effects of disruptions either to or from new technologies. Examples: Internet of Things, smart grid, the largely automatic digital economy.
6. Upstream infrastructure: Electricity, financial and telecommunications systems. Examples: Internet exchange points, submarine cables, key companies and protocols used to run the Internet.
7. External shocks: Outside of the control of most organizations

and likely to cascade. Examples: Major international conflicts, malware pandemic.

For more information about how cyber risk insurance can help your business, call [Joanne Billington](#) at 236-4311.

Confused About Health Insurance? Find Answers Here

Open enrollment for many employers is in full-swing and open enrollment for individuals in the Affordable Care Act marketplace starts Nov. 15. A new [Kaiser Family Foundation study](#), released this week, shows that many consumers do not understand the basic terms and concepts of health insurance.

For example, nearly 40% of uninsured consumers don't understand basic health insurance terminology and even fewer understand how to calculate the out-of-pocket costs of a hospital stay or out-of-network lab test.

The work of an independent insurance advisor is more valuable to the consumer than ever, said [Dan Wyman](#), manager of the insured benefits division at Allen Insurance and Financial.

"Our staff specializes in health insurance. We can explain the differences in plans, right down to the smallest of details. We work with businesses, families and individuals every day to help them pick the insurance plans that best serve their needs," said Wyman.

It doesn't cost the consumer anything additional to have the advice of an insurance professional. And working with Allen Insurance and Financial means that when it comes to claims

issues or questions during the plan year, an Allen advisor will be available to answer those questions, said Wyman.

[Take the Kaiser Family Foundation's health insurance quiz.](#)

[button name="Visit Our Affordable Care Act Resource Center"
url="http://www.alleninsuranceandfinancial.com/?p=4456"]

Professional, Unbiased Advice About Health Insurance

Health insurance today requires a specialist. Allen Insurance and Financial has produced a short video about the crucial role an independent insurance agency can play in the health insurance marketplace.

[Dan Wyman,](#) head of of Allen's insured benefits division, discusses the steps consumers can take, with the assistance of an Allen insurance agent, to choose the health insurance product that best meets their needs.

[button name="Visit Our Affordable Care Act Resource Center"
url="http://www.alleninsuranceandfinancial.com/?p=4456"]

4 Important Dates for Health Insurance

Open Enrollment is the time when you can find a new plan on the Health Insurance Marketplace, keep your current plan, or see if you can get help paying for coverage. If you want to make sure you're covered in 2015, mark these 4 dates on your calendar:

- Nov. 15, 2014. This is your first day to apply for, keep, or change your coverage.
- Dec. 15, 2014. Enroll by the 15th if you want new coverage that begins on Jan. 1, 2015. If your plan is changing or you want to change plans, enroll by Dec. 15 to avoid a lapse in coverage.
- Dec. 31, 2014. The day all 2014 Marketplace coverage ends, no matter when you enrolled. Coverage for 2015 plans can start as soon as Jan. 1.
- Feb. 15, 2015. The last day you can enroll in 2015 coverage before the end of Open Enrollment.

We're here to help. At no additional cost. Call 855-701-5700 today to make an appointment with a member of our health insurance team.

Medicare Open Enrollment: The

Ideal Time to Shop for New Coverage

Medicare open enrollment this year starts Oct. 15 and ends Dec. 7. Even if you're happy with your current plan, open enrollment is the ideal time to make sure the plan you're enrolled in is really the right plan for your needs.

Insurance plans unveil new pricing and benefits during open enrollment; it's best not to assume that drug coverage and other co-payments will remain the same during the new plan year.

Medicare beneficiaries have the right to change their health and drug coverage without restriction during open enrollment.

[Anna Moorman](#), Allen Insurance and Financial's Medicare Specialist, is based at our office at 31 Chestnut Street in Camden. She can be reached at 236-4311.

Healthcare.gov Gets an Overhaul

We're reading about the updates being made to the Health Insurance Marketplace, healthcare.gov.

[The NYTimes is reporting](#) that according to an internal memo at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the federal health insurance marketplace website will have a "new look and

feel” and will provide “a shorter, smoother, simpler user experience.”

Most consumers will be able to use an updated (and shorter) application, the DHHS says.

Open enrollment for insurance under the Affordable Care Act opens Nov. 15 and closes Feb. 15, 2015.

Allen Insurance and Financial has a special toll-free phone number to direct health insurance inquiries directly to our health insurance team: (855) 710-5700. We’re here to help, at no additional cost to the consumer.

[Find more information at our Affordable Care Act Resource Center.](#)

Whether Host or Renter, Airbnb Insurance Questions Need Answers

Whether you’ve listed a room on Airbnb or you’ve taken on a boarder for extra income, consulting with your insurance agent about what’s covered under your [homeowners insurance policy](#) (and what’s not covered) is always a good idea.

You may screen your tenants carefully, but it’s truly impossible to know whether a guest could steal, damage or vandalize a your

property. In addition, an injury on your property could lead to a guest claiming negligence, even if you were not at fault.

[This article at PropertyCasualty360.com](#) outlines additional points for both hosts and guests/renters.

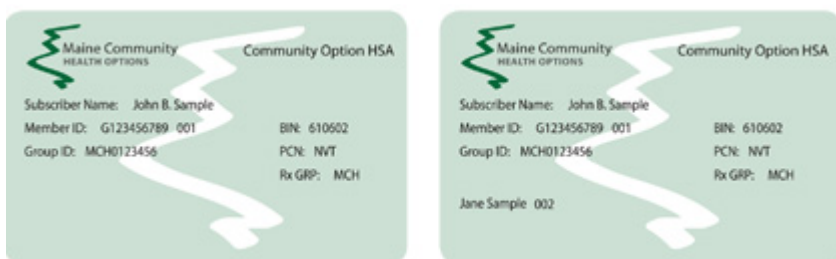
If you have questions, we're here to answer them.

Maine Community Health Options to Issue New ID Cards

Maine Community Health Options, the leading insurer serving Maine people under the Affordable Care Act, announced Wednesday, Aug. 20 that they are issuing all members new ID cards as part of a transition to a new ID card vendor.

MCHO says the new vendor will mean faster turnaround times for members.

Here is an image of the new cards:



Anyone with questions can contact [Anna Moorman](#) at Allen Insurance and Financial.