

Federal News

On February 20, HHS released the EHB final rule. This rule outlines the standards related to the coverage of essential health benefits (EHB) and the determination of actuarial value (AV). The following links provide further information: [EHB Final Rule](#), [Guide to Reviewing EHB Benchmarks](#), [Summary of WV EHB Benchmark](#), [WV State Required Benefits](#)

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The U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) have published an interim final rule that governs whistleblower complaints filed under Section 1558 of the Affordable Care Act (ACA). The rule may be viewed [here](#).

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The IRS released a proposed rule on guidance on the implementation of the Health Insurance Provider Fees. The rule is located [here](#).

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HHS released the 483 page final rule on Notice of Benefit and Payment Parameters. It expands upon the standards set forth in earlier rules and provides further information on permanent risk adjustment, transitional reinsurance, temporary risk corridors, advance payments of the premium tax credit, cost sharing reductions, MLR and SHOP. The rule is located [here](#).

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The Office of Personal Management (OPM) released a final rule establishing Multi-State Plan Programs. The rule is located [here](#).

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HHS issued the final rule that implements five key consumer protections: Guaranteed Availability, Fair Health Insurance Premiums, Guaranteed Renewability, Single Risk Pool and Catastrophic Plans. The final rule is located [here](#).

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HHS hope to register over 250,000 agents to work with the Marketplaces. The following links provide additional information: [Agent Data Collection](#), [Agent Registration Appendix A](#), [Agent Registration Appendix B](#).

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The United States Department of Labor provides sets of FAQs addressing implementation topics of the ACA. This [link](#) provides additional information.

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HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius sent a letter to CEOs of insurance companies asking them to post actuarial justification for premium hikes. A copy of the press release and letter are provided [here](#).

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Inside this issue:

Activity in Other States	2
Other Information	3
Calendar	3

Activity In Other States

California

- ⇒ Released their standardized rates for health plans. The release gave Californians their first detailed look at what health care reform will mean to them. The press release and additional information can be found [here](#).
- ⇒ Announced on 2/13/13 the release of their new updated website. The site provides information in multiple languages and estimate calculator to help consumers estimate potential cost. The updated site is located [here](#).

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Colorado Health Benefit Exchange issues an RFP for community based organizations to provide impartial assistance to consumers. The funding announcement is to invite applications from groups who are interested in becoming Assistance Sites of Regional Hubs. The RFP can be found [here](#).

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Connecticut—Access Health CT, has selected MAXIMUS to run their consumer contact center operations. The press release is located [here](#).

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District of Columbia— held a Communications Summit for DC agencies and Community Stakeholders. The meeting was targeted to agencies, industry and community stakeholders to enhance their knowledge of the DC Health Benefits Exchange. Additional information is located [here](#).

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Illinois— Was awarded conditional approval to operate a State Partnership Exchange. The press release is located [here](#).

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Iowa - Submitted their Exchange Blueprint for Plan Management. The press release can be found [here](#).

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Minnesota—Health Insurance Exchange released a Public Awareness Marketing /Outreach Campaign RFP. The contractor will be responsible for raising awareness and promoting enrollments. The RFP is located [here](#).

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New Hampshire

- ⇒ Submitted their letter of intent to participate in a Partnership Exchange for both Plan Management and Consumer Assistance. The letter is located [here](#).
- ⇒ A bill currently in the New Hampshire legislature would bring the state's insurance laws in line with federal reform. Under federal law insurers could charge smokers covered in the small group market up to 50% more. The article is located [here](#).

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New Jersey—Department of Banking and Insurance is warning consumers to beware of healthcare insurance fraud. The article with pointers and information is located [here](#).

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New York— Health Benefit Exchange released a Request for Application for the In-Person Assistor (IPA) and Navigator Program. The program will be designed to provide assistance to those applying for health insurance through the exchange. The RFA is located [here](#).

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West Virginia- Submitted the states blueprint for plan management and in-person assisters (IPA) for operating a health insurance marketplace. Additional details are located [here](#).

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Washington— Held three committees and workgroup meetings. Meeting information is available at the links below:

- ⇒ [Plan Management Workgroup](#)
- ⇒ [Dental Plan Technical Advisory Committee](#)
- ⇒ [Agents & Brokers Technical Advisory Committee](#)

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March 2013

West Virginia Offices of the Insurance Commissioner

1124 Smith Street
Room 305
Charleston, WV 25301

Phone: 304 - 558 - 6279
Fax: 304 - 558 - 0138

Email:
Jeremiah.Samples@wvinsurance.gov

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12 Carrier & Producer Stakeholder Meetings	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24/31	25	26 Consumer and Providers Stakeholder Meeting	27	28	29	30

Upcoming Calendar Meetings

Tuesday, March 12

Carrier 10:00 AM

Producer 1:00 PM

OIC Main Conference Room

Tuesday, March 26

Consumers and Providers 10:00 PM

OIC Main Conference Room

Additional information is available on our web site: www.bewv.com

Other Information

HHS released a report that shows fewer health insurers are seeking double digit rate increases. More information is [here](#).



The Obama administration will require health insurance companies to report all price increase to the federal government. This will allow the federal government to monitor the impact of the new healthcare law. *The New York Times* article is located [here](#).



The Kaiser Family Foundation (KFF) released a study on premiums in the unsubsidized nongroup market. The February 6, 2013 article can be found [here](#).



West Virginia offers residents free help on quitting tobacco. The WV Tobacco Quitline has been in operation since 2000 helping 75,000 enrollees. Details on this successful program can be found [here](#).



WVAHC released a study detailing the economic impact to the state if Medicaid is expanded. The article is located [here](#).

