



PRESS RELEASE

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OHIC Adopts Revisions to Regulation 2: The Affordability Standards

Cranston, Rhode Island, February 6, 2015-- Health Insurance Commissioner Kathleen C Hittner, MD has adopted revisions to OHIC Regulation 2: Powers and Duties of the Office of the Health Insurance Commissioner, with changes specific to the “Affordability Standards.” To support the agency’s mission of improving the affordability of health insurance for consumers, OHIC first implemented its nationally recognized Affordability Standards in 2010.

In August 2013, OHIC evaluated the efficacy of the Affordability Standards and used the results to recommend changes to the current Standards. The assessment found that the Standards have increased primary care infrastructure in the State, accelerated patient-centered medical home transformation efforts, and reduced the rate of hospital cost increases. In 2013 and 2014, OHIC worked diligently with health insurance carriers, its Health Insurance Advisory Council (HIAC), and other critical stakeholders to refine the recommended modifications and draft the revised regulation based on these changes.

“Through our revisions to the Affordability Standards in Regulation 2, OHIC is striving to move the healthcare delivery system in a direction that will not only slow the growth of healthcare costs, but also improve the efficiency and quality of the care that is being delivered to Rhode Islanders,” explained Commissioner Hittner.

“We must ensure Rhode Island families have access to quality, affordable health insurance,” added Governor Gina Raimondo. “These updated standards are an important step, helping to support improved health care services while also driving down costs.”

OHIC has published a technical document that details the implemented changes and the rationale behind such changes, which are designed to update the Affordability Standards by recognizing current developments in the health care sector. The standards also newly incorporate administrative simplification requirements that grew out of a legislatively established taskforce and incorporate OHIC’s work on price transparency.

For more detailed information, including the referenced technical document, please visit www.ohic.ri.gov.

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About the State of Rhode Island Office of the Health Insurance Commissioner

The State of Rhode Island Office of the Health Insurance Commissioner (OHIC) was established by legislation in 2004 to broaden the accountability of health insurers operating in the Rhode Island. Under this legislation, OHIC is dedicated to:

1. Protecting consumers
2. Guarding the solvency of health insurers
3. Encouraging the fair treatment of health care providers
4. Improving the health care system as a whole

OHIC sets and enforces standards for health insurers in each of these four areas.

Protecting Consumers • Ensuring Solvency • Engaging Providers • Improving the System
State of Rhode Island Office of the Health Insurance Commissioner

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