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2020 Requested Commercial Health Insurance Rates Have Been Submitted to OHIC for Review

CRANSTON, R.I. (June 21, 2019) – The Office of Health Insurance Commissioner (OHIC) today released the individual, small, and large group market premium rates requested by Rhode Island’s four largest insurers. The requests were filed as part of OHIC’s 2019 rate review and approval process (for rates effective in 2020). Tables 1 – 3, below, summarize the insurers’ requests for 2020, and provide the requested and approved rate changes for the previous two years. Two insurers, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Rhode Island (BCBSRI) and Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island (NHPRI) filed plans to be sold on the individual market for persons who do not receive insurance through their employer. In addition to BCBSRI and NHPRI, UnitedHealthcare and Tufts Health Plan filed small group market plans.

Governor Raimondo’s proposed FY 2020 budget called for the creation of the Health Insurance Market Integrity Fund, which would make available reinsurance payments to health plans to reduce the burden of high cost claims on individual market premiums. According to insurer filings, the enactment of the Health Insurance Market Integrity Fund would reduce the individual market premium requests from 6.6% to -0.4% for BCBSRI and from 5.4% to 1.7% for NHPRI. These insurers’ pricing assumptions are subject to review and verification by OHIC. Table 1 shows the requested individual market rate increases with and without reinsurance.

Key factors influencing the rate requests for 2020 are increases in the cost of health care services, including prescription drug cost trends driven by new drug treatments. The rate requests also reflect the reinstatement of the federal health insurance tax, which was suspended in by Congress in 2019.

**Table 1: Proposed Individual Market Requests for 2020
Overall Weighted Average Rate Change**

Insurer	2020 – Requested	2019 - Requested	2019 – Approved	2018 - Requested	2018 - Approved
BCBSRI	6.6%	10.7%	7.5%	13.9%	12.1%
With reinsurance	-0.4%				
NHPRI	5.4%	8.7%	8.7%	5.0%	5.0%
With reinsurance	1.7%				

**Table 2: Proposed Small Group Market Requests for 2020
Overall Weighted Average Rate Change**

Insurer	2020 – Requested	2019 - Requested	2019 - Approved	2018 - Requested	2018 - Approved
BCBSRI	5.5%	5.7%	4.6%	8.6%	7.3%
NHPRI	-0.6%	-0.2%	-0.2%	6.3%	6.3%
UnitedHealthcare (HMO)	10.6%	3.4%	-1.2%	12.8%	8.1%
UnitedHealthcare (PPO)	10.0%	-0.6%	-5.0%	12.8%	8.1%
Tufts Health Plan (HMO)	6.7%	10.9%	10.2%	6.0%	6.0%
Tufts Health Plan (PPO)	11.0%	10.1%	9.4%	6.5%	6.5%

**Table 3: Proposed Large Group Market Requests for 2020
Overall Weighted Average Rate Change**

Insurer	2020 – Requested	2019 - Requested	2019 - Approved	2018 - Requested	2018 - Approved
BCBSRI	9.6%	10.6%	8.0%	11.9%	10.5%
UnitedHealthcare	10.3%	9.1%	8.1%	10.3%	8.0%
Tufts Health Plan HMO	9.6%	10.3%	10.3%	9.8%	9.8%
Tufts Health Plan PPO	10.5%	10.2%	10.2%	10.4%	10.4%

OHIC will accept public comment on the proposed rates through July 19th, 2019. Comments may be submitted in writing via email to OHIC.HealthInsInquiry@ohic.ri.gov or via postal mail to

Office of the Health Insurance Commissioner
1511 Pontiac Avenue
Building #69
Cranston, RI 02920

OHIC will also hear public comment in person at a Public Input Meeting to be held July 15, 2019 from 4:30 PM to 5:30 PM at the Rhode Island Department of Labor & Training Conference Room, 1511 Pontiac Ave. Building 73-1 Cranston, RI 02920.

OHIC will also review each health insurer's contracts to ensure that plans sold in Rhode Island meet all benefit, access, and member cost sharing standards required by state and the federal law. OHIC's final decision to approve, modify, or reject the proposed rates is expected in August.

For more detailed information on the filings please visit www.ohic.ri.gov.