

PRESS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Health Insurance Commissioner Lowers 2013 Health Insurance Premium Increases for Tufts Health Plan Subscribers Average Expected Premium Increases to Decrease by 2.60% for Small Employers and 0.40% for Large Employers

Cranston, Rhode Island, November 2, 2012- Today Health Insurance Commissioner Christopher F. Koller announced his approval of 2013 health insurance premium increases for small and large employers who purchase their coverage from Tufts Health Plan (Tufts) that are lower than those previously approved in September 2012. Tufts requested the new average expected premium increases on the basis of favorable year-to-date claims and premium experience compared to what had been expected and previously filed. The following tables show the previously approved and new approved average premium increases for small and large employers:

2013 Small and Large Employer Average Expected Premium Increases for Tufts Health Plan: Previous Approved and New Approved

Small Employers

Large Employers

New Approved

4.10%

Insurer	Previous Approved	New Approved	Insurer	Previous Approved
Tufts	5.30%	2.70%	Tufts	4.50%

The premium increases for employers purchasing their coverage through Tufts are averages—employers will see higher and lower rates depending on demographic changes in their workforce and—in the case of large employers—their own company's rates of medical care utilization.

"I am very happy to be able to approve these new, lower premium increases for small and large employers who purchase their coverage from Tufts and I applaud Tufts for requesting them" said Commissioner Koller. "The fact that these new, lower rates were requested by Tufts demonstrates the positive effect of a setting an expectation of accountability and transparency around this issue and this is why my office has consistently emphasized these values."

Commissioner Koller continued, "However, as I have repeatedly said, health insurance continues to be expensive—too expensive—because the underlying cost of health care itself is expensive. Given this, my office is dedicated to continuing to work to address these underlying costs in collaboration with consumers, employers, government officials, insurers, and providers by promoting systemic reforms that have been demonstrated to reduce the price of services and rates of utilization. A sustained commitment to this work by all involved stakeholders is absolutely necessary to slow the growth in health care costs to a rate that will result in more affordable health insurance over the long-term."

For more information on the details of Tufts' submission, 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.