

Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Rhode Island (“BCBSRI”) has submitted its annual rate filing for Non-Group Medicare Supplement plans. This document gives an overview of that filing.

Scope and Range of the Rate Increase:

BCBSRI has proposed rate increases for July 1, 2017 Non-Group Medicare Supplement plans for Rhode Island members. These rate changes, once approved, will apply to about 17,700 members. The new monthly premium rates will apply to members beginning July 1, 2017.

The average rate increase for these plans is expected to be 5.4%. Rate increases vary by plan. The range of rate increases members will experience is: 0.0% to 9.0%. This range does not account for changes in premium due to attained age discounts.

Key Drivers for this Filing:

The proposed rate increase for July 1, 2017 is mainly due to the continuing increase in the total cost of health care in Rhode Island.

Healthcare expenses are driven by:

- how often and how much health care is received (utilization); and
- year to year changes in Medicare deductibles and copayments.

Increasing utilization contributes to the increase in healthcare expenses. The number of medical services our members receive continues to grow year over year. In addition, Medicare deductibles and copayments that are covered under these plans are expected to increase. Administrative costs factor into this filing, as do premium taxes paid to the State of Rhode Island.

BCBSRI recognizes that providing affordable healthcare coverage is very important to our members. We continue to work to improve internal operations to moderate both medical and administrative expense trends. And we are teaming up with our healthcare delivery system partners to develop and implement new ways to transform our business.