

2017 Health Insurance Premium Rate Review Process Small Employer Group Essential Health Benefits Base Rate Summary

The following table depicts the proposed overall weighted average premium increase, the Essential Health Benefits (EHB) base rate, and the key assumptions behind premium development for the small employer group (SG) market filed by Blue Cross Blue Shield of Rhode Island (BCBSRI), Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island (NHPRI), Tufts Health Plan (Tufts), and UnitedHealthcare (United) as part of the State of Rhode Island Office of the Health Insurance Commissioner's (OHIC) 2017 rate review process (for rates effective in 2018). This information is subject to change as the rate review process continues. Please see our 2017 Rate Review Process Public Comment Solicitation for more information about the rates and this process.

OHIC is currently reviewing these assumptions. This review process will culminate in a final decision by the Health Insurance Commissioner approving, modifying, or rejecting the requested rates. For more information on the rate review process or information about rates filed in the individual or large group markets, please visit <http://www.ohic.ri.gov/ohic-formandraterreview.php>.

There are 56,506 consumers enrolled in small group market plans (data as of March 2017). This represents 26.3% of the fully-insured market (individual, small group, and large group markets).

- The **Overall Weighted Average Rate Increase** represents adjustments to reflect the benefits in plans, including modifications to prior year benefits and pricing and it includes terminated plans. This weighted average rate increase represents the average rate that consumers will experience. The **range of rate changes** represents variation by plan benefits. It does not include the effect of changes in age.
- The **EHB base rate** is used by OHIC to compare premiums across insurers and years and represents the monthly average rate for a hypothetical plan with no cost-sharing for a 21-year old for a given insurer in a given market. Essential Health Benefits are a set of benefits that must be covered by plans, as called for in the Affordable Care Act.
- The **Medical Expense Trend Assumption** is the annualized rate of increase due to increases in the unit cost of services and in the utilization of services. Because rates are generally based on the calendar year 2016 experience adjusted for trend, the expected experience underlying the 2018 rates is projected using two years of medical expense trend.
- The **Non-Medical Portion of Premium** represents the percent of overall premium that is required to cover administrative expense, contribution to reserves and required taxes and fees, including premium tax, ACA fees (which were suspended for 2017 but are required in 2018) and HealthSource RI Exchange Fees.
- The **Quarterly Effective Date Projection Factor** represents the expected annualized inflation rate for rates charged to small employers renewing at different points during a year. For example, a small employer renewing in January will pay a lower rate than a small employer renewing in December for the same plan because there are fewer months over which they will experience inflation, assuming that the two small employers have a workforce of the same age.

Small Group Market Rate Request Summary – Requested Amounts (Data as of July 6, 2017)

	BCBSRI	NHPRI	Tufts HMO	Tufts PPO	United HMO	United PPO
Overall Average Weighted Rate Change ¹ for the full year	8.6%	5.8%	6.0%	6.5%	12.8%	12.8%
Range of Average Weighted Rate Changes	2.0% to 25.8%	2.5% to 8.4%	-4.0% to +33.9%	-3.1% to +34.2%	-5.6% to +24.2%	-5.1% to +31.3%

Small Group Market Rate Request Summary – EHB Requested Amounts (Data as of July 6, 2017)

	BCBSRI	NHPRI	Tufts HMO	Tufts PPO	United HMO	United PPO
EHB Base Rate ² for 1Q renewals	\$415.27	\$331.50	\$425.67	\$429.61	\$474.13	\$479.23
EHB Base Rate Change from 2016	10.5%	6.9%	5.8%	6.6%	18.8%	18.7%

Small Group Market Rate Request Summary – Medical Trend Assumptions (Data as of July 6, 2017)

	BCBSRI	NHPRI	Tufts HMO	Tufts PPO	United HMO	United PPO
Hospital Inpatient	3.1%	4.0%	4.6%	4.6%	6.6%	6.6%
Hospital Outpatient	8.5%	5.1%	6.7%	6.7%	6.8%	6.8%
Primary Care	7.2%	18.5%	5.8%	5.8%	5.0%	5.0%
Other Medical/Surgical	5.2%	18.4%	4.4%	4.4%	5.7%	5.7%
Prescription Drug	9.7%	12.7%	11.2%	11.2%	10.0%	10.0%
Capitation	0.0%	0.0%	3.0%	3.0%	1.9%	1.9%
Total Weighted Trend	6.8%	10.1%	6.7%	6.7%	7.2%	6.2%

Small Group Market Rate Request Summary – Risk Adjustment Assumption (Data as of July 6, 2017)

	BCBSRI	NHPRI	Tufts HMO	Tufts PPO	United HMO	United PPO
Risk Adjustment Assumption ³	-2.6%	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%	13.6%	13.6%

Small Group Market Rate Request Summary – Non-Medical Portion of Premium (Data as of July 6, 2017)

	BCBSRI	NHPRI	Tufts HMO	Tufts PPO	United HMO	United PPO
Administrative Expense	14.0%	20.6%	11.5%	11.2%	12.8%	12.8%
ACA Fees ⁴	2.2%	0.005%	1.1%	2.2%	3.3%	3.3%
State Premium Tax	2.0%	2.0%	2.0%	2.0%	2.0%	2.0%
Contribution to Reserves	3.5%	2.0%	1.0%	1.0%	3.0%	3.0%
HealthSource RI Assessment ⁵	0.6%	3.5%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%

Small Group Market Rate Request Summary – Quarterly Effective Date Projection Factors (Data as of July 6, 2017)

	BCBSRI	NHPRI	Tufts HMO	Tufts PPO	United HMO	United PPO
1Q 2017	1.000	1.0000	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000
2Q 2017	1.016	1.0244	1.016	1.016	1.016	1.016
3Q 2017	1.033	1.0495	1.032	1.032	1.032	1.032
4Q 2017	1.050	1.0751	1.048	1.048	1.048	1.048

1 Represents adjustments to reflect the benefits in plans, including modifications to prior year benefits and pricing and terminated plans. This weighted average rate change represents the average rate change that consumers will experience.

2 Represents the monthly average rate for a hypothetical plan (no member cost sharing) for a 21-year old for a given insurer in a given market, excluding the cost of pediatric dental.

3 Represents an adjustment to reflect the ACA's risk adjustment program which redistributes funds from carriers with lower-risk enrollees to plans with higher-risk enrollees.

4 Represents costs associated with ACA's taxes and fees including the Health Insurer Tax and the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Trust Fund (PCORI) Fee.

5 Represents the assessment being charged to fund the ongoing operations of RI's state-based insurance marketplace, HealthSource RI.