

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS  
OFFICE OF THE HEALTH INSURANCE COMMISSIONER  
1511 PONTIAC AVENUE  
CRANSTON, RI 02920

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

Notice is hereby given in accordance with R.I. Gen. Laws Secs. 27-19-1 et seq., 27-20-1 et seq., 42-14.5-1 et seq., 42-14-1 et seq., and 42-35-1 et seq., that the Rhode Island Office of the Health Insurance Commissioner (“OHIC”) will hold public hearings regarding a rate filing requesting increases in premium rates for the **Direct Pay Class** submitted by **Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Rhode Island** (“Blue Cross”) on April 15, 2013 (“the Filing”). The hearings will begin on May 29, 2013 at 9:00 a.m. and will continue on May 30, 2013 at 9:00 a.m. Public comment will be taken at 9:00 a.m. on May 29, 2013. Any member of the public that is unable to attend the hearing at 9:00 a.m. on May 29, 2013 to provide public comment may appear at 6:00 p.m. on May 30, 2013 to offer public comment or other information. If not concluded on May 30, 2013, the public hearings may continue thereafter on May 31, 2013, at 9:00 a.m. or such other date and time as may be announced at the public hearings. The hearings will take place in a hearing room of the Rhode Island Public Utilities Commission at 89 Jefferson Boulevard, Warwick, Rhode Island.

The Direct Pay Class consists of individuals and families who are not eligible for employer-based coverage (other than a self-employed individual, who may be eligible for this coverage), coverage through State or Federal programs, and those who are enrolled in one of Blue Cross’ Direct Pay products. **The Filing does not apply to any Blue Cross Medicare products.** All persons interested in offering comments should appear at the hearings on May 29, 2013 or on May 30, 2013, and/or file written comments as detailed below.

The Filing also seeks approval for Blue Cross to keep its current Direct Pay rates in place for the period October 1, 2013 through December 31, 2013.

Thereafter, for the period commencing January 1, 2014, Blue Cross is seeking approval of new rates for its current Direct Pay plans (except for the Blue Value Direct Plan which will be discontinued on December 31, 2013) and six new Direct Pay plans. The existing Direct Pay plans will also be undergoing benefit changes and, in some cases, increases in deductibles and co-pays. The plans will continue to be offered for purchase directly through Blue Cross and, with the exception of the Blue Solutions for HSA 2300 Plan, will also be offered through the new Rhode Island Health Benefits Exchange.

The overall average rate increase proposed by Blue Cross for existing Direct Pay subscribers is in the range of approximately 18.1%. Depending upon a subscriber’s existing plan, the subscriber’s age, gender and single or family coverage, and other individual factors, the rating changes could be in the range from an approximately 59% increase to an approximately 62% decrease in rates. Depending upon family size and age of children, rate increases for some families may be substantially larger.

Because of the requirements of the federal Affordable Care Act (ACA), as of January 1, 2014, the Direct Pay plans will no longer have a medically underwritten pool (old Pool II) or a basic pool for all other subscribers (old Pool I). The ACA requires all Direct Pay subscribers to be in one pool, with no gender rating. The ACA also requires single year rate age bands for subscribers age 21 through 65 as opposed to the prior 5 year rate age bands. Rates are determined per individual with premiums for family coverage to be developed based upon the number of individuals in the family with a cap (for rating purposes only) of three children under the age of 21. Information regarding specific proposed rates broken down by age and plan as well as a complete copy of the filing may be obtained at [www.bcbsri.com/2014rates](http://www.bcbsri.com/2014rates) or by calling Blue Cross customer service at (800) 639-2227 or (401) 459-5000.

The rates proposed are to be in effect for the period January 1, 2014 through December 31, 2014. A copy of the Filing is on file at OHIC and copies may be obtained from the Administrative Officer of OHIC, 1511 Pontiac Avenue, Building #69-1, Cranston, Rhode Island during normal business hours Monday through Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The Filing as well as other information about the Filing may also be viewed at the OHIC's website: <http://www.ohic.ri.gov>.

All interested persons may submit their comments regarding the proposed rates orally at the public hearings on May 29, 2013 commencing at 9:00 a.m. and on May 30, 2013, commencing at 6:00 p.m., or in writing, either by delivering the same in person or by United States mail with postage prepaid to the Hearing Officer, Raymond A. Marcaccio, Esq., c/o Office of the Health Insurance Commissioner, 1511 Pontiac Avenue, Building #69-1, Cranston, Rhode Island 02920, or by e-mail to [HealthInsInquiry@ohic.ri.gov](mailto:HealthInsInquiry@ohic.ri.gov).

All written submissions must be received no later than May 29, 2013 at 9:00 a.m. Any request for intervention into the proceeding must be filed no later than ten days from the date of publication of the Notice of Public Hearing in The Providence Journal.

The hearing room is accessible to the handicapped. Individuals requesting interpreter services for the hearing impaired must notify the OHIC at 462-9517 or TDD 711 not less than seventy-two (72) hours in advance of the hearing date.

Christopher F. Koller  
Commissioner