

OHIC NEWS

The Rhode Island Office of the Health Insurance Commissioner

2023 FINAL RATE REVIEW DECISION

OHIC CONCLUDES 2023 COMMERCIAL HEALTH INSURANCE RATE REVIEW PROCESS SAVING RHODE ISLANDERS \$22,880,000

Commercial health insurance premiums for 2023 have been approved by the State of Rhode Island’s Office of the Health Insurance Commissioner (OHIC), with modifications. As a result of these changes, Rhode Islanders will save \$22,880,000 in 2023 compared to what the commercial health insurers requested. In the months since the rate filings were submitted in May, OHIC has reviewed the medical expense trend assumptions, administrative charges, and margin requests for each insurer. Additionally, OHIC staff reviewed the benefit coverage documents for each health plan to ensure compliance with state and federal laws. The approved premiums are predominantly driven by the escalating cost of health care—the increasing unit prices and use of health care goods and services.

In addition to OHIC’s review, for the first time this year, the Rhode Island Attorney General’s Office (RIAG) conducted an independent review of rate filings in all markets. The RIAG submitted comments and actuarial reports on each rate filing to OHIC. OHIC also solicited and considered public comment during this year’s review process.

“My office has conducted a thorough review of the rate filings, public input, and considered the actuarial recommendations provided by the Rhode Island Attorney General’s Office across all markets,” *said Health Insurance Commissioner Patrick M. Tighe*, “As I said when my office published the requested increases in June, the rates demonstrate the continued need for shared accountability by insurers and providers to address the underlying costs of health care in order to promote affordability for Rhode Island consumers and businesses. I would like to thank the Attorney General for the participation of his office in this year’s rate review process and those members of the public who submitted comments.”

The tables below summarize the approved rates for 2023. The rate change approved by OHIC is shown along with the recommendations of the RIAG’s consulting actuaries and the rate change requested by the insurers.

Table 1: Final Individual Market Rates for 2023
Overall Weighted Average Rate Change

Insurer	Enrollment (March 2022)	OHIC Approved	RIAG Actuary Recommended	Insurer Requested
BCBSRI	17,635	3.1%	1.4%	9.6%
NHPRI	25,023	8.2%	9.8%	6.8%

Table 2: Final Small Group Market Rates for 2023
Overall Weighted Average Rate Change

Insurer	Enrollment (March 2022)	OHIC Approved	RIAG Actuary Recommended	Insurer Requested
BCBSRI	40,943	9.7%	9.5%	11.7%
NHPRI	1,875	6.8%	5.8%	9.7%
UnitedHealthcare (HMO)	606	5.0%	9.2%	12.3%
UnitedHealthcare (PPO)	2,067	3.5%	7.7%	10.7%
Tufts Health Plan (HMO)	1,205	7.4%	7.2%	9.2%
Tufts Health Plan (PPO)	737	8.2%	7.4%	10.0%

Table 3: Final Large Group Market Rates for 2023
Overall Weighted Average Rate Change

Insurer	Enrollment (March 2022)	OHIC Approved	RIAG Actuary Recommended	Insurer Requested
BCBSRI	63,300	5.9%	5.7%	7.0%
UnitedHealthcare	12,471	8.0%	11.3%	11.7%
Tufts Health Plan HMO	2,911	8.8%	10.4%	10.4%
Tufts Health Plan PPO	3,248	8.9%	10.3%	10.3%
Aetna	69	5.4%	5.1%	13.4%
Cigna	656	5.7%	8.5%	8.5%

For more detailed information on the filings, visit: <https://ohic.ri.gov/regulatory-review/rate-review>

IN A TIME OF HEALTH CARE CRISES, OHIC PUTS THE FOCUS ON FINDING SOLUTIONS

In a two-part interview with Richard Asinof of ConvergeRI, Health Insurance Commissioner Patrick M. Tighe discussed the office's multipronged approach to transforming the health care delivery system in Rhode Island. Commissioner Tighe discussed the importance of changing how health care delivery is being financed and the critical need to focus on the creation of "a rationalized reimbursement system."

Part one of this interview highlights OHIC's plans to create a next generation of Affordability Standards that will increase insurer investment in community-based behavioral health services. In part two, Commissioner Tighe discusses the office's plans to create a more equitable financial structure for a continuum of care in Rhode Island, focused on affordability, quality, and improved health outcomes.

To read the full articles, visit newsletter.convergeri.com. Part one can be viewed [here](#), and part two can be viewed [here](#).