



**Commonwealth of Massachusetts**  
**Executive Office of Health and Human Services**  
**Division of Medical Assistance**  
600 Washington Street  
Boston, MA 02111

**MassHealth**  
**Long-Term-Care Facility Bulletin 71**  
**March 2000**

**TO:** Nursing Facilities, Chronic Disease and Rehabilitation Inpatient Hospitals, and Rest Homes Participating in MassHealth

**FROM:** Mark E. Reynolds, Acting Commissioner

**RE: MEDEX PREMIUM RATE INCREASE**

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**Background**

Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Massachusetts has received approval from the Division of Insurance to increase premium rates for all of its nongroup Medex plans: Medex Gold, Medex Silver, Medex Standard, Medex Basic, Medex Bronze, and Medex Core, effective March 15, 2000.

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**Rate Changes**

The old quarterly rate, new quarterly rate, and new monthly premium for each Medex plan appear in the chart below. The new monthly premium is the amount allowed as a patient-paid amount (PPA) deduction. Fees for special billing arrangements that cause a premium to exceed these amounts are not allowable PPA deductions.

<b>MEDEX PLAN</b>	<b>OLD QUARTERLY RATE</b>	<b>NEW QUARTERLY RATE</b>	<b>NEW MONTHLY PREMIUM</b>
Gold	\$ 851.91	\$ 936.24	\$ 312.08
Silver	663.36	729.03	243.01
Standard	634.95	694.11	231.37
Basic	439.29	482.76	160.92
Bronze	331.62	334.41	111.47
Core	176.97	194.49	64.83

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**PPA Adjustments**

Although the rate increase is not effective until March 15, 2000, the Division will allow the higher premium deduction for the PPA calculation as of March 1, 2000. The Division's computer system will be updated with the increased rates and will recalculate the PPAs, effective March 1, 2000, for all members receiving Medex. During the month of March 2000, notices containing information about the PPA changes will be mailed to affected members, conservators, and nursing facilities.

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***Questions***

Questions about this bulletin should be directed to the MassHealth Policy Hotline at (617) 210-5331.

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