

WYOMING DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE
106 East 6th Avenue, Cheyenne, WY 82002
Contact: Denise Burke (307) 777-2450

December 8, 2015

*****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*****

**ENROLL IN A HEALTH INSURANCE PLAN BEFORE DECEMBER 15, 2015
TO AVOID A GAP IN COVERAGE**

CHEYENNE, Wyo. – Consumers have just one week left to enroll in a 2016 health insurance policy if they wish to have coverage starting on January 1, 2016.

Wyoming Insurance Commissioner Tom Glause reminded Wyoming consumers, “You are strongly encouraged to choose a 2016 health insurance plan by December 15, 2015, to avoid any gap in coverage.” “With the departure of WINhealth from the Wyoming market, it is especially important for former WINhealth customers to select their new plan and pay their first premium by December 31, 2015 in order to avoid any gap in coverage” said Glause. Consumers that were covered by Blue Cross Blue Shield of Wyoming in 2015 should review their coverage and be certain they have indicated their continuation of coverage for 2016.

It is important to note that consumers who enroll and pay for a 2016 health insurance policy between December 16, 2015, and January 15, 2016, will not have coverage until February 1, 2016. Consumers who enroll between January 16, 2016, and January 31, 2016, which is the end of the open enrollment period, will not have coverage until March 1, 2016.

For plan year 2016, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Wyoming is the only carrier on the Marketplace (also called the Exchange) for individuals and small employers. Additional insurers offer plans off-Exchange for individuals and small groups. Consumers are encouraged to look at the Marketplace plans on the government website at: Healthcare.gov. “Be sure you are looking at the official Healthcare.gov website and not one of the questionable sites that have been opened by individuals taking advantage of consumers by using similar sounding names,” said Glause. Consumers are also encouraged to seek information through the Enroll Wyoming, a local agent or broker, or the Department of Insurance.

Employers or small groups that previously had plans through WINhealth are being transitioned to other insurers. Employees with questions about their insurance plans should contact their Human Resources department.

About the Wyoming Department of Insurance

The State of Wyoming, Department of Insurance protects the rights of Wyoming consumers and regulates Wyoming’s insurance industry. For more information about the Department of Insurance, visit the department’s website at: DOI.wyo.gov.