

**WYOMING DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE**

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

**Wyoming Insurance Marketplace:  
What You Need To Know To (Re)Enroll**

With Open Enrollment just around the corner, Wyoming Insurance Commissioner Tom Glause would like Wyoming Consumers to have quality information to help them make their best decision. Most Americans get health insurance through their employer or a family member's workplace. However, nationwide 20 million people are now buying health coverage through the Marketplace or Exchange. In Wyoming, 94% of the individuals obtaining coverage on the Exchange receive a subsidy, generally known as an Advanced Premium Tax Credit (APTC). If you bought insurance through the Exchange last year, or are considering buying from the Exchange this year, the Wyoming Department of Insurance has some information to make the process a little easier.

**The Basics**

Health insurance Marketplaces, or Exchanges, operate in every state, including Wyoming. These online portals ask a series of questions to determine which plans meet your needs. They also determine if you are eligible for any subsidies or alternative coverage through Medicaid or the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP).

You can apply online, by mail or in person. If you get coverage through Medicare or an employer, you don't need to apply for coverage through the Exchange. Open Enrollment is the period in which you can shop and sign up for insurance coverage in the Exchange. Open enrollment starts Nov. 1, 2016 and ends Jan. 31, 2017. If you don't enroll in a health insurance plan by Jan. 31, 2017, you can't enroll in a health insurance plan for 2017 unless you qualify for a Special Enrollment Period. Plans sold in the individual market (off the Exchange) also follow these dates. Key Dates for Open Enrollment are:

Nov. 1, 2016	Start of Open Enrollment	First day you can enroll in a 2017 insurance plan through the Exchange
Dec. 15, 2016		Last day to enroll (or change plans) for coverage starting Jan. 1, 2017.
Jan. 15, 2017		Last day to enroll (or change plans) for coverage starting Feb. 1, 2017
Jan. 31, 2017	End of Open Enrollment	If you enroll or make changes between Jan. 16 and Jan. 31, coverage will begin March 1, 2017.

If you purchased health insurance through the Marketplace last year, you will be auto-enrolled in the same or similar plan unless you select a different plan by Dec. 15. Take time to verify your

information and look at the available policies. There may be a new option that is less expensive or better suits your needs. Even if you are auto-enrolled in a plan, you are able to choose a different plan at any time during the open enrollment period.

In addition, your eligibility for subsidies depends on your income and available policies in your area. Either of these may have changed from last year. Even if your income and chosen plan have not changed, if there is a less expensive option it could affect the amount of a subsidy. If you do not complete a new eligibility determination, you may be responsible for repaying the difference between what you are currently receiving and what you should receive when you file your 2017 taxes.

If you had a plan that is no longer offered, you may have already received a cancellation notice. That means the insurance company is unable to or has chosen not to renew that policy. Some plans were extended for one year and are no longer available. You should review all of your insurance options, including purchasing on the Exchange. You can still purchase insurance "off" the Exchange in the individual market, but you will not be eligible for subsidies.

Plans sold on the Marketplace fall into one of four categories: bronze, silver, gold or platinum. The different categories represent what an average enrollee would pay out-of-pocket. All plans must cover 10 essential health benefits (EHBs). If you purchase a bronze plan, you would pay a higher portion of the total cost of the care you receive than you would if you had a gold plan. While bronze plans have lower premiums, they also have higher deductibles, co-pays and coinsurance levels. These all increase your costs if you need medical care.

Exact rates may depend on age, family size, geographic location and tobacco use. In addition, some people may qualify for subsidies based on their income. These subsidies come in the form of a tax credit, applied to your monthly premiums, and cost-sharing reductions, which increase the value of silver plans for those who qualify.

Each state has a program to assist consumers with understanding their options. Insurance agents or brokers as well as trained navigators, application counselors and in-person assisters are able to help you learn about the available choices and guide you through the insurance application process. Assisters or navigators may not be licensed insurance agents and if not, they cannot recommend a specific insurance plan or sell you insurance. A trained and licensed insurance agent or broker can help you find the right policy, but they may be limited to selling for a particular company.

If you have questions about the health insurance Marketplace in Wyoming, contact the Wyoming Department of Insurance at 1-800-438-5768 or 307-777-7401. You can find more information on the ACA on the DOI website at: [www.wyo.gov](http://www.wyo.gov). or at the Health and Human Services website at: [www.HHS.gov](http://www.HHS.gov). The Marketplace is located at: [www.Healthcare.gov](http://www.Healthcare.gov).

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