

WYOMING DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE

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

INSURANCE SPECIAL ENROLLMENT PERIOD FOR SOME TAX-PAYERS

Cheyenne, Wyo. – Wyoming Insurance Commissioner Tom Glause announced that the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) will be opening a Special Enrollment Period for individuals and families in states like Wyoming that use the Federally-facilitated Marketplace (FFM) and who did not have health insurance coverage in 2014. The individuals that are eligible for this Special Enrollment are subject to a tax penalty, also known as the shared responsibility payment, when they file their 2014 federal income taxes. This Special Enrollment Period will allow consumers who were unaware or did not understand the implications of this requirement to obtain coverage in a health insurance plan for the remaining months of 2015 through the Federally-facilitated Marketplace. The Special Enrollment Period will be available from March 15 to April 30, 2015. If consumers do not purchase insurance coverage for 2015 during this Special Enrollment Period, they may have to pay a tax fee when they file their 2015 income taxes.

Those eligible for this Special Enrollment Period live in states utilizing the FFM (including Wyoming) and:

- Currently are not enrolled in coverage through the FFM for 2015.
- Attest that when they filed their 2014 tax return they paid the fee for not having health coverage in 2014.
- Attest that they first became aware of, or understood the implications of, the individual shared responsibility payment after the end of open enrollment (ended February 15, 2015) in connection with preparing their 2014 taxes.

Consumers seeking to take advantage of the Special Enrollment Period can find out if they are eligible by visiting <https://www.healthcare.gov/get-coverage>. Consumers can find local help at Localhelp.healthcare.gov or contact the FFM call center at [1-800-318-2596](tel:1-800-318-2596); TTY users should call [1-855-889-4325](tel:1-855-889-4325). Assistance is available in 150 languages.

This year's tax season is the first time consumers will be asked to provide basic information regarding their health coverage on their Federal tax returns. Individuals who could not afford coverage or meet other specific conditions may be eligible to receive an

exemption from the individual shared responsibility payment for 2014. To help consumers who did not have insurance last year determine if they qualify for an exemption, CMS also launched a [health coverage tax exemption tool](#) on Healthcare.gov and CiudadodeSalud.gov.