



Notice Alert

New Guidance for Buying Health Insurance on MA Health Connector

New Federal Guidance for Buying Health Insurance

Summary

On January 1, 2014, the Health Connector's Voluntary Plan (VP) program will be discontinued because of a change in federal tax law. Due to an amendment to Section 125 of the Internal Revenue code made by the Affordable Care Act (ACA), individuals may not purchase individual market coverage **on a pre-tax basis** through a government exchange such as the Health Connector on or after January 1, 2014.

How does this new guidance impact me?

- If you are not eligible to receive state-subsidized health insurance through the Group Insurance Commission (GIC), you **can** purchase health insurance **on an after-tax basis** from the state's Health Connector Commonwealth Choice programs.
- **You cannot purchase health insurance on a pre-tax basis.** (Note that this pre-tax prevention does not apply to individual coverage purchased directly from a carrier or through a private exchange)

What if I am currently enrolled in the plan?

- **Currently enrolled in a MA Health Connector plan**
 - o If you are currently enrolled in a non-contributory plan (employer does not make contributions toward insurance), through the Health Connector, the insurance will be available through June 30, 2014, with pre-tax deductions.
 - o You would continue to pay insurance premiums until it **expires on June 30, 2014**. You may shop for new health insurance through the Health Connector when your health insurance expires.
- **Buying health insurance after January 1, 2014**
 - o Eligible employees may purchase a plan through the Connector.
 - o However, the Connector **will bill the employees directly** for the new coverage, and employees must pay for the premiums with **after tax dollars beginning on January 1, 2014**.
 - o You can shop for different products depending on the level of benefits and cost sharing you feel most comfortable.
 - o You may be eligible for advanced premium tax credits or state subsidies if you meet certain income thresholds.

How do I sign up for the Massachusetts Health Connector?

You can sign up by:

- **For Massachusetts residents**, [Visit MAhealthconnector.org](http://MAhealthconnector.org) or call MA Health Connector at 877-623-6765 Monday - Friday 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.; TTY Line 888-213-2763
- For **non-Massachusetts** residents, visit Healthcare.gov or call 800-318-2596; TTY Line: 855-889-4325

How can I find out more about this new guidance?

Learn more by accessing the [QA on New Guidance](#).

How can I access the ACA Notice and more ACA information?

Access the ACA Notice by [clicking here](#).

Who can I contact at UMMS if I have questions?

- Contact our Human Resources Service Center Team
 - Phone 508-856-5260 Press #1
 - Email Benefits.UMMS@umassmed.edu
 - Fax 508-856-4049

