

At Bond

we promise to keep you up-to-date on new healthcare legislation as it passes. This year, New York State passed a new law requiring health insurers to seek premium rate approval from the New York State Insurance Department prior to issuing premium rates. Please read below for more information.

PRIOR APPROVAL

To comply with the law, written notice of the proposed rate changes must be provided to all policyholders on or about the date that the insurer's community rate proposal is submitted to the Insurance Department. **Please note that the percentage ranges in the initial notice do not include the impact of health reforms under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA). The PPACA rate impact is addressed in a separate rate filing.**

A requirement of this new law is that employers must provide covered employees and retirees with this written notice of proposed rate changes. Requirements on behalf of the employer vary depending on insurance carrier; we have outlined the process for Excellus Blue Cross Blue Shield and MVP Healthcare below.

EXCELLUS BLUE CROSS BLUE SHIELD is mailing packets to their employer groups, including a supply of employee/retiree letters to be distributed by the employer group.

MVP HEALTHCARE is mailing notices delegating the responsibility of creating and distributing the proposed rate change notices to the employer group. We recommend that you forward a copy of the MVP notice to your employees.

The goal of this prior approval process is twofold: to allow the NYS Insurance Department to review rate increases and ask questions of the insurance carriers, and to provide an opportunity for employers and employees to provide feedback and questions to the NYS Department of Insurance regarding the rate filing. Employees have 30 days from the receipt of the initial notice to submit any written comments to the NYS Insurance Department, Charles Lovejoy, Healthcare Bureau, One Commerce Plaza, Albany, NY 12257.

In addition to the initial filing notices, employers will receive notices 60 days prior to their rate change effective date (approximately November 1, 2010 for groups renewing January 1, 2011) identifying the specific rate increase filed with the NYS Insurance Department for each product currently offered to your group.

We have provided the following links for your reference.

[Sample Employee Letter](#)

[Excellus Letter](#)

[MPV Letter](#)

*We'll focus on your benefits,
you focus on your business.*

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