

Individual Health Insurance Information for 2019 Open Enrollment

BY **CYDNI KLAUSS**, HEALTHY, WEALTHY & WISE

For those of you who buy your own health insurance through healthcare.gov or directly from insurance companies, open enrollment is approaching fast. As in prior years, open enrollment will be from November 1 to December 15 and is likely the only time you will be able to buy a qualified health plan. Special Enrollment Periods will still be around for people who lose coverage due to life events such as job loss or moving out of service area of the insurance carrier.



STM plans work well for their intended purpose to bridge coverage gaps when changing insurance. Remember that STM plans do not cover pre-existing conditions. Use of the insurance for an accident or illness may be cited as a pre-existing condition when you apply for another temporary policy – and that could result in denial of claims and/or coverage.

Oregon Standard Bronze HSA Plans

In 2018, the bronze level Oregon Standard plan was a health savings account (HSA) qualified. This plan is been discontinued for 2019 and members will be moved to the new Oregon Standard Bronze plans which is not HSA qualified. Most insurance carriers are still offering HSA plans but in order to have an HSA qualified plan, you will need to change your plan on healthcare.gov or via the packet sent to you from your insurance company.

As always, my goal is to help you stay healthy, wealthy & wise so please give me a call to schedule a time to review your health insurance options.



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Individual health insurance has been in the news almost every day this year. With that kind of press, you might expect big changes but there are only a few and one of them is, of course, price. One of the reasons rates are climbing is due to the political uncertainty in Washington DC. Additionally, an end to the mandate that every American obtain health insurance means it's harder for health plans to woo healthy customers – who help keep rates down. The end of federal funding to subsidize insurance costs for some families is also pushing up the cost of insurance plans for people who do not get subsidies.

End of the Insurance Mandate

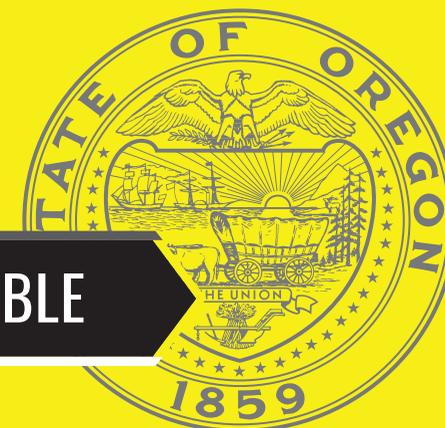
The ACA penalty for being uninsured still applies in 2018. However, there won't be a penalty for people who are uninsured in 2019 and beyond, but penalties for people who are uninsured in 2018 will be assessed on tax returns filed in 2019.

Before you decide to forego health insurance, talk to a health insurance professional. An broker can help you fully understand your options so you make fully informed decisions.

Short Term Medical Plans

Even though the President has approved Short term medical (STM) plans for up to 364 days, the State of Oregon did not. Insurance is regulated at the State level and Oregon has opted to leave the term for STM plans at 90 days, including renewals.

Open enrollment for health insurance is **here**. And we're here to **help**.



FREE HELP AVAILABLE

Visit your local agent:



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Call for an appointment today!