

New Health Insurance Marketplace Coverage Options

Part A: General Information

When key parts of the health care law take effect in 2014, there will be a new way to buy private individual health insurance: the Health Insurance Marketplace. To assist you as you evaluate options for you and your family, this notice provides some basic information about the new Marketplace and employment-based health coverage we offer to you. Please note that this notice is informational only.

What is the Health Insurance Marketplace?

The Marketplace is designed to help you find private individual health insurance that meets your needs and fits your budget. The Marketplace offers "one-stop shopping" to find and compare private health insurance options. You may also be eligible for a new kind of tax credit that lowers your monthly premium right away. Open enrollment for health insurance coverage through the Marketplace begins in October 2013 for coverage starting as early as January 1, 2014.

Can I Save Money on my Health Insurance Premiums in the Marketplace?

You may qualify to save money and lower your monthly premium, but only if your employer does not offer coverage, or offers coverage that doesn't meet certain standards. The savings on your premium that you're eligible for depends on your household income.

Does the Employment-Based Health Coverage We Offer to You Affect Your Eligibility for Premium Savings through the Marketplace?

Yes. If we have offered you health coverage that meets certain standards, you will not be eligible for a tax credit through the Marketplace and you may wish to enroll in our health plan, if you are eligible. (Just because you received this Marketplace notice does not mean you are eligible.) However, you may be eligible for a tax credit that lowers your monthly premium, or a reduction in certain cost-sharing if we do not offer coverage to you at all or do not offer coverage that meets certain standards. If the cost of self-only coverage under our health plan is more than 9.5% of your household income for the year, or if our health plan does not meet the "minimum value"¹ standard set by the Affordable Care Act, you may be eligible for a tax credit.

Note: If you purchase a health plan through the Marketplace instead of accepting our health plan coverage, then you may lose our contribution (if any) to your coverage under our health plan. Also, our contribution—as well as your employee contribution—is often excluded from income for Federal and State income tax purposes. Your payments for coverage through the Marketplace are made on an after-tax basis.

How Can I Get More Information About the Health Insurance Marketplace?

The Marketplace can help you evaluate your coverage options, including your eligibility for coverage through the Marketplace and its cost. Please visit HealthCare.gov for more information, including an online application for health insurance coverage and contact information for a Health Insurance Marketplace in your area. The website for the Maine Bureau of Insurance also has details regarding the plans offered in Maine at www.maine.gov/pfr/insurance/. You can also contact an IndividualCHOICE licensed health insurance counselor at (800) 444-1188 on or after October 1, 2013, and get your questions answered.

¹ An employer-sponsored health plan meets the "minimum value standard" if the plan's share of the total allowed benefit costs covered by the plan is no less than 60 percent of such costs.

Part B: Information About Employer-Provided Health Plan Coverage

If you decide to complete an application for coverage in the Marketplace, you will be asked for information about our health plan coverage. The information below can help you complete your application for coverage in the Marketplace.

1. General Employer Information.

Employer name:	Bates College
Employer Identification Number (EIN):	01-0211781
Employer street address:	215 College Street
Employer phone number:	207-786-8271
Employer city:	Lewiston
Employer state:	ME
Employer ZIP code:	04240
Who can we contact about employee health coverage at this job?:	Ken Emerson
Phone number (if different from above):	
Email address:	kemerson@bates.edu

2. Eligibility. You may be asked whether or not you are currently eligible for our health plan coverage or whether you will become eligible for coverage within the next three months. In addition, if you are or will become eligible, you may be required to list the names of your dependents that are eligible for coverage under our health plan.

If you would like information about the eligibility requirements for our health plan, please read the eligibility provisions described in the Employee Handbook on our website. You can obtain a copy of the Eligibility provisions in the Employee Handbook by contacting Ken Emerson at 207-786-8271 or by email at kemerson@bates.edu.

3. Minimum Value. If you are eligible for coverage under our health plan, you may be required to check a box indicating whether or not our health plan meets the minimum value standard. Our health plan coverage meets the minimum value standard.

4. Premium Cost. If you are eligible for coverage under our health plan, you may be asked to provide the amount of premiums you must pay for self-only coverage under the lowest-cost health plan that meets the minimum value standard. If you had the opportunity to receive a premium discount for any tobacco cessation program, you must enter the premium you would pay if you received the maximum discount possible for a tobacco cessation program.

If you would like information about the premiums for self-only coverage under our lowest-cost health plan, please either see our website at <http://www.bates.edu/hr/benefits/cigna/> or contact Ken Emerson at 207-786-8271 or by email at kemerson@bates.edu.

5. Future Changes. You may also be asked whether or not we will be making certain changes to our health plan coverage for the new plan year. As usual, you will be provided with information about any changes to our health plan coverage before the next open enrollment period. If you are not sure how to answer this question on your Marketplace application, please contact the Marketplace.