TRANSITIONS Benefit Group

Understanding the Affordable Care Act Insurance:

Questions & Answers

Pre-Existing Conditions

Under current law, health insurance companies can't refuse to cover you or charge you more just because you have a "pre-existing condition" — which is defined as a health problem that existed before the new health coverage starts. These rules went into effect for plan years beginning on or after January 1, 2014.

What This Means for You: Health insurers can no longer charge more or deny coverage to you or your child because of a pre-existing health condition like asthma, diabetes, or cancer. Nor can they limit benefits for those conditions. Once you have insurance, they can't refuse to cover treatment for your pre-existing condition.

Young Adult Coverage Options

Under current law, if your plan covers children, you can now add or keep your children on your health insurance policy until they turn 26 years old. Children can join or remain on a parent's plan even if they are:

- Married, Not living with their parents,
- Attending school,
- Not financially dependent on their parents,
- Eligible to enroll in their employer's plan.

When someone turns 26: the under-26 coverage ends on a child's 26th birthday. When a child loses coverage on their 26th birthday, they qualify for a Special Enrollment Period. This lets them enroll in a health plan outside the Open Enrollment Period.

Health Sherpa

The Health Sherpa tool is our tool for guiding you as you browse plans in the Marketplace.. On this website you will be able to see if you are eligible for premium tax credits and apply for coverage OR you can apply for coverage without premium tax credits.

Health Sherpa Walkthrough

Save on your insurance bill with premium tax credits:

When you apply for coverage in the Marketplace, you'll find out if you qualify for a "premium tax credit" that lowers your premium — the amount you pay monthly for your insurance. Your premium tax credit depends on your estimated household income for the current year. You can apply some or all this tax credit to your monthly insurance premium payment. The Marketplace will send your tax credit directly to your insurance company, so you'll pay less each month. This is called taking an "advance payment of the premium tax credit."

It's important to report income and household changes to the Marketplace as soon as possible. If your income goes up or you lose a member of your household: Your premium tax credit will probably be lower. You may want to reduce the amount of tax credit you take in advance each month. This way you don't wind up taking more credits than you qualify for. If your income goes down or you add a member to your household: You'll probably qualify for a larger premium tax credit. You may want to increase the amount of tax credit you take so you have a lower premium each month.

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