

PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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High Risk Pool Coverage to Extend into 2014

Concord, New Hampshire – November 18, 2013---Insurance Commissioner Roger Sevigny announced today that he intends to order the New Hampshire high risk pool to remain open into 2014, until such time as guaranteed issue coverage, including subsidized coverage through the federal Marketplace, is fully available to high risk pool members.

The high risk pool, operated by the New Hampshire Health Plan, serves people who have been denied coverage due to their health status. It was scheduled to close December 31, 2013 because, as of January 1, 2014, health insurance companies will be required to issue policies without regard to health status. However, technical difficulties with the Healthcare.gov website that serves as New Hampshire's Health Insurance Marketplace have caused concern among high risk pool members and their brokers as to whether they will have coverage in 2014.

“Many in the high risk pool require medical care on an ongoing basis, and many have not yet found substitute coverage for next year. These people need to know for certain that they will have coverage in January of 2014, and cannot wait until the last minute to enroll through Healthcare.gov,” said Commissioner Sevigny. “The legislature authorized me to order the extension of high risk pool coverage if necessary, and given the operational problems with the federal Marketplace, I believe it is prudent to do so.” Commissioner Sevigny expects to issue a final order later this week.