

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: March 24, 2014**

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## **NH Insurance Department to Convene Public Network Adequacy Working Group**

**Concord, NH** – The New Hampshire Insurance Department invites interested persons to participate in a working group designed to revise the current state rules that define a minimum “adequate network” for health insurance plans, including those offered on New Hampshire’s federally operated Health Insurance Marketplace.

“We understand that there are concerns from citizens about how health insurance companies are able to choose providers within their networks,” said Insurance Commissioner Roger Sevigny. “We plan to look carefully at our network adequacy standards in view of new legal requirements, changes in medical practice, and the need to encourage more competition in our health insurance markets. We are committed to engaging in this discussion in an open, transparent manner.”

The Insurance Department will host an organizational meeting on April 23 to launch the review of its network adequacy rules. This meeting will be a working session, not a hearing. It is the first step of a process intended to gather information and feedback on New Hampshire’s current rules defining network adequacy for health insurance companies, and what changes might be made through the formal rulemaking process. That process, which will take place after the working group has completed its analysis, will include a formal public hearing, an additional comment period, and approval through the state’s legislative rules committee. Any resulting changes to the rules would become effective for health plans sold in 2016.

Participants who wish to provide comments for consideration at the initial working group session are requested to submit, in advance of the April 23 meeting, feedback on current rules and their preferences for changes. At the meeting, the Department will explain current laws, describe the rulemaking process, summarize feedback, and determine next steps.

Comments are due April 16, and should be emailed to Health Policy Analyst Tyler Brannen at [Tyler.Brannen@ins.nh.gov](mailto:Tyler.Brannen@ins.nh.gov).

Participants are asked to RSVP to the April 23 meeting by emailing [Karen.Cassin@ins.nh.gov](mailto:Karen.Cassin@ins.nh.gov) or calling 271-7973, ext. 234. The meeting will be held at 9 a.m. in the auditorium of the Brown Building, 129 Pleasant St., Concord, NH. In the event that a larger venue is required, an alternative location will be announced on the Insurance Department website, [nh.gov/insurance](http://nh.gov/insurance), by April 21.

The current rules can be found here:

[http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/rules/state\\_agencies/ins2700.html](http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/rules/state_agencies/ins2700.html)

The statutory authority: RSA 400-A:15; RSA 420-J:7 and RSA 420-J:12.

The New Hampshire Insurance Department's mission is to promote and protect the public good by ensuring the existence of a safe and competitive insurance marketplace through the development and enforcement of the insurance laws of the State of New Hampshire. For more information, visit [www.nh.gov/insurance](http://www.nh.gov/insurance).

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