

PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

New Hampshire Insurance Department Recommends Plans for Health Insurance Marketplace

August 1, 2013 – Concord, New Hampshire - Last night the New Hampshire Insurance Department submitted its recommendations for which health insurance plans should be offered on the New Hampshire Health Insurance Marketplace, or Exchange, beginning October 1, 2013.

Under the Affordable Care Act, the federal government is building and operating the New Hampshire Health Insurance Marketplace, which will be a website where people and small businesses (through the SHOP Exchange) will be able to buy health insurance and, for those who qualify, to receive subsidies to lower the cost of coverage.

New Hampshire has entered into a partnership for Plan Management, which means the Insurance Department is responsible for reviewing and approving the rates, forms and plan design for the health insurance plans that will be offered on the Marketplace. The final decision on whether the plans are qualified for sale on the Marketplace will be made by the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), the agency operating the Marketplace.

CMS will release plan rates and details by October 1, 2013, when the Marketplace opens for business. Once the coverage takes effect on January 1, 2014, the Insurance Department will continue to play its traditional role in overseeing the conduct of the companies offering the plans, and will be available to assist New Hampshire consumers with any issues that arise regarding their health insurance, including plans offered on the Marketplace.

“New Hampshire’s Health Insurance Marketplace will help individuals and businesses compare plans in order to access health coverage that fits their needs, and I commend my rate and form staff for their heroic efforts to meet the July 31st deadline for reviewing the proposed Marketplace health insurance plans,” said Insurance Commissioner Roger Sevigny. “While we cannot make rates or plan details public at this time, we are encouraged by the filings that were made, and we are confident that New Hampshire consumers will have good options for coverage through the Marketplace when it opens in October.”