

PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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New Hampshire Insurance Commissioner to Hold Third Annual Hearing on Health Insurance Rates

Concord, NH –September 19, 2013 – New Hampshire Insurance Commissioner Roger Sevigny announced today that he will hold a public hearing on Thursday, September 26th, 2013 concerning health premium rate increases. The agenda includes a presentation of the recently released report, *New Hampshire's Health Insurance Marketplace and Provider Payment System: An Analysis of Stakeholder Views*, available on the Department website <http://www.nh.gov/insurance/reports/index.htm> The major health insurance carriers in New Hampshire will provide testimony and representatives of health care provider and advocacy groups will participate.

“Stakeholders have expressed concern about the high cost of health care in New Hampshire. High deductibles and premiums are a significant issue for employers and employees,” said Commissioner Sevigny. “New Hampshire’s family premiums are the second highest in the country and past public hearings and report findings have shed light on the health care costs driving premium increases and the impact on health insurance benefits.

Health insurance companies have been asked to provide information at the hearing on the primary drivers of cost, utilization and trend assumptions used in premium development, strategies or innovations that have been implemented that impact premiums, and the expected impact of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) in 2014.

Commissioner Sevigny will moderate a discussion with the panel of carriers and other stakeholders on the topics of provider payment reform, provider consolidation, transparency of costs, product design and the role of the Insurance Department and other state agencies in promoting provider payment reform.

The Commissioner will issue a report later this year identifying and quantifying health care spending trends and the underlying factors that contributed to increases in health insurance premiums. Copies of past annual reports are available on the New Hampshire Insurance Department website at <http://www.nh.gov/insurance/reports/index.htm>

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