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### **NH Insurance Department's Network Adequacy Work Group to Meet May 8**

**Concord, NH** – On May 8, the Department will reconvene its Network Adequacy Working Group, designed to revise the current state rules that set out minimum standards for health insurance company provider networks, including the plans offered on New Hampshire's federally operated health insurance exchange.

The public meeting will take place from 1:30-3 p.m. in Room 100 of the Walker Building, 21 South Fruit St., Concord. To reserve a seat at the meeting, please RSVP by emailing [Danielle.Barrick@ins.nh.gov](mailto:Danielle.Barrick@ins.nh.gov).

At the meeting, the department will provide an overview of its contract with a health care consulting firm to redraft the current state rule governing network adequacy standards. Department members will discuss the project's timeline and the work already in progress to analyze New Hampshire Comprehensive Health Information System (NH CHIS) data to provide guidance in revising the network adequacy standards.

"We are pleased to move forward, in a collaborative fashion with members of the public and other stakeholders, on this important work," said New Hampshire Insurance Commissioner Roger Sevigny. "The current network adequacy standards are more than a decade old and don't necessarily reflect the current and future state of health care delivery."

The Working Group last met December 9. In July, members of the Insurance Department presented a conceptual framework for revised rules. A video of the presentation may be found on the Insurance Department's website: [http://www.nh.gov/insurance/legal/nhid\\_nwadequacy\\_wg.htm](http://www.nh.gov/insurance/legal/nhid_nwadequacy_wg.htm).

The May 8 meeting is another informal workgroup session outside of the formal rulemaking process. These meetings will continue until the new guidelines for network adequacy are written and the formal rulemaking process begins. The Department hopes to have new guidelines in place for 2017 health plans.

The Insurance Department launched the public working group in April 2014. Members include a range of stakeholders, including consumers, health care providers, nonprofit health care advocates, and insurance companies.

The Department developed the current network adequacy rules in 2001 with help from a similar working group, composed of consumer representatives, hospitals, community clinics, physicians, nurses, and mental health providers, as well as all the major health insurance companies.

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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