

# Comprehensive Health Insurance Rate Changes in Wisconsin - A Consumer-Friendly Summary for Individuals

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## What affects the premium I pay?

In general, how much premium a health insurance company charges for your specific plan depends on:

- Your age and the age of any family member(s) in your plan;
- Whether or not each person 18 or older uses tobacco;
- Where you live;
- The benefits in your health plan; and
- The network of doctors and hospitals you can access.

The Wisconsin Office of the Commissioner of Insurance (OCI) reviews all comprehensive health insurance rates for policies sold to individuals and small employers. This allows OCI to ensure the rates charged by the company reflect the true cost of the benefits included in each health plan and the company's costs of operation. These rates are the starting point for the premium you pay. Your premium starts with your plan's rate and varies based on your age (and the age of your family members), where you live, and whether you smoke. A health insurance company **cannot** vary your premium based on your "health status" or that of your family members.

## How often can my premium change?

An insurance company may change the premium you pay in the following circumstances:

- Your plan is up for its annual renewal;
- You request to add or remove a family member from the policy;
- You change your plan at renewal (you choose different benefits, network, or cost-sharing); or
- You move to a different county in Wisconsin.

## What can I do if I can't afford the premium for my current plan anymore?

Each year, you have the opportunity to change your health insurance company and/or plan during a time called "open enrollment." During this time, you can shop for new health insurance coverage that best fits your needs and the needs of your family. This year's open enrollment period is .

It is important to remember that the cost you pay may vary under different policies. When shopping for a new plan, you will want to consider the deductible and the copay or coinsurance you would pay when you use your health care, as well as the premium you pay each month. For example, if your family needs a lower deductible, you will likely pay more in premium. "High-deductible" plans would have a lower premium.

Depending on your family's income, you may also be eligible for premium subsidies from the federal government. To determine your eligibility, visit [www.healthcare.gov](http://www.healthcare.gov) during open enrollment.

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Insurance companies\* that offer comprehensive health insurance coverage in Wisconsin are required to file changes to their “rate manual” with OCI. A rate manual is a group of rules and factors that an insurance company uses to determine what premium it will charge to an individual. A company must apply the same rules and factors (rates) to all individuals that want to purchase health insurance coverage. Below are some details about this specific rate filing.

\*Only health insurance companies offering health insurance coverage to individuals and small employer groups are required to file rates in Wisconsin.

**Insurance Company (Marketing Name):**

**Market Segment:** Individual

**SERFF Tracking Number(s):**

\_\_\_\_\_ has filed a \_\_\_\_\_ % change to the underlying rate structure for the following product(s) in Wisconsin:

The change to the underlying rate structure may result in a different premium change for each individual or family.

This rate change is filed in Wisconsin as of \_\_\_\_\_. The actual date that a consumer will see a premium increase may vary based on the anniversary date of the policy.

The minimum effect on a Wisconsin policyholder is \_\_\_\_\_%.

The maximum effect on a Wisconsin policyholder is \_\_\_\_\_%.

This rate change will affect \_\_\_\_\_ people in Wisconsin, and will be reflected in the “new business” rates the company will charge.

The primary drivers of this change to the company’s rate manual are:

**Questions?** Please feel free to contact the Rate Review Team at [OCIRateReview@wisconsin.gov](mailto:OCIRateReview@wisconsin.gov).