

*State of Idaho*  
**DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE**

C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER  
Governor

700 West State Street, 3rd Floor  
P.O. Box 83720  
Boise, Idaho 83720-0043  
Phone (208)334-4250  
Fax (208)334-4398  
Website: <http://www.doi.idaho.gov>

DEAN L. CAMERON  
Director

**Idaho Department of Insurance News Release**

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Contact: Tricia Carney 208-334-4312 or 208-850-2342

[Tricia.carney@doi.idaho.gov](mailto:Tricia.carney@doi.idaho.gov)

## **Insurance Department releases 2017 final health insurance rate increases**

**BOISE ID** – The Idaho Department of Insurance released the final 2017 premium rate increases for all individual and small group health plans today. Carriers filed their initial request in May, however, carriers were allowed to submit a revised request based on their federal risk adjustment payment requirement that was released in July.

The Department took public comment and began working with carriers to reduce increases. The Department's only authority is to deem the rate increase unreasonable. Carriers propose rates based on claims experience, premiums, network provider agreements, administrative and other costs. After review of the proposed rates and justifications, most carriers agreed to reduce their revised request and the Department could not find the final rate increases to be unreasonable.

Nationwide, several of the largest insurance companies have left next year's exchange markets, leaving some states with fewer insurers participating – and not all insurers participating statewide. In at least five states, exchange shoppers are limited to a single carrier option.

"While other states have seen dramatic reductions in carriers participating on their health insurance exchanges, the good news for Idaho is that we continue to have robust choice with five carriers and 186 medical plans in Idaho with at least four companies in every county," says Director Dean Cameron. "More choice leads to more competition which should lead to lower premiums."

The final 2017 rate adjustments and justifications for each carrier are published on the Department website, <http://www.doi.idaho.gov/consumer/RateReview/>, along with an interactive tool where consumers can click on their geographical location to find plans sold in that area and see the rate adjustments per plan. This year consumers can also review prices by metal level.

"The rate increases are definitely greater than we would like, and we were able to work with the carriers to reduce some of the rate increases. However, the claims costs continue to be much

greater than the carriers originally expected, which is a key driver of the rate increases,” says Cameron.

This year carriers are making significant adjustments in their contracts with providers to control costs. Some of those adjustments are leading to smaller networks and larger out-of-network costs. To help consumers understand the network changes, the Department worked with Idaho’s state-based marketplace, Your Health Idaho, to develop network size indicators of “Basic,” “Standard,” and “Broad.” Consumers are encouraged to consider their plan’s network and consult their provider directory. The Department also encourages consumers to carefully review the out-of-network provisions of their plan.

For questions about this or other insurance-related topics, consumers are encouraged to contact the Idaho Department of Insurance by visiting [www.doi.idaho.gov](http://www.doi.idaho.gov) or by calling 334-4250 in the Boise area or 800-721-3272 toll-free statewide.

### **About the Department of Insurance**

The Idaho Department of Insurance has been regulating the business of insurance in Idaho since 1901. The mission of the Department is to equitably, effectively and efficiently administer the Idaho Insurance Code and the International Fire Code. For more information, visit [www.doi.idaho.gov](http://www.doi.idaho.gov).

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