

The rates for private health plans on kynect have been filed but have not yet been approved or certified, so we don't yet know what the final numbers will be. Changes still may occur. Rates should be finalized sometime in mid-July.

We do expect that some plan rates will go down, some will go up and some will stay close to the same as last year.

When open enrollment begins this fall, Kentuckians should seek information about their individual plans, not average costs. System-wide averages don't give a good picture of what an individual's out-of-pocket costs may be.

However, the vast majority of Kentuckians buying health insurance through kynect are eligible for some kind of payment assistance or subsidy, which will lower their out-of-pocket cost. That cost will vary from family to family, so talking about rate changes in a vacuum isn't a very effective way to gauge how much those rate fluctuations may affect policyholders or those shopping for insurance.

For example, if a person is paying \$50 per month out of pocket after her subsidy or payment assistance, and her plan premium goes up 7 percent and her subsidy remains the same, that would be a difference of \$3.50 per month. Reviewing just the percentage change can be deceptive. That's why it will be important to look at out-of-pocket costs, and those will vary depending on region, age, household income and smoking status.

We also have several new insurance companies offering plans on kynect, including a new statewide insurer. For the first time, all Kentuckians will have at least three private insurance companies to choose from. Three new insurers will be offering private plans on kynect as well as through insurance agents. That means more competition and more choice for consumers, which is good news. Other plans may have made improvements since last year, such as expanded networks, that may make them more attractive to Kentucky families.

Again, rates are not yet final, but when they are, we will strongly encourage people to shop around on kynect to find the best plan for their families.

Requested Average Rate Increases for ACA Compliant Plans, Individual Market

Under Review

Insurer	Requested Average Rate Increase 2016	* On kynect/Off kynect
Aetna Health	n/a – new insurer to the individual market	On kynect & off kynect
Anthem Health Plans of KY	14.6%	On kynect & off kynect
Bluegrass Family Health	n/a – new insurer to the individual market	On kynect & off kynect
CareSource KY	11.83%	On kynect & off kynect
Celtic Insurance Company	9.93%	Off kynect
Freedom Life Insurance Company of America	n/a – new insurer to the individual market	Off kynect
Golden Rule Insurance Company	11.5%	Off kynect
Humana Health Plan	5.2%	On kynect & off kynect
KY Health Cooperative	25.1%	On kynect & off kynect
Time Insurance Company	n/a – new ACA compliant plans in the individual market	Off kynect
UnitedHealthCare of Kentucky	n/a – new insurer to the individual market	On kynect & off kynect
UnitedHealthCare Life Insurance Company	n/a – new insurer to the individual market	Off kynect
WellCare Health Plans of KY	-9.28%	On kynect & off kynect

**plans sold on kynect are eligible for payment assistance*