

Helping Consumers Report a Life Event or Change in Circumstance



Center for Consumer Information and Insurance Oversight

April 2, 2015 (Original presentation on February 7, 2014)



- I. Overview of Why to Report a Life Change
- II. How to Report a Life Change in the Application
- III. Next Steps and Assister Tips



I. Overview of Why to Report a Life Change

Why Report a Life Change?

- Once you have Marketplace coverage, you **must** report certain life changes.
- This information may change the coverage or savings consumers are eligible for.
- Life changes can make a difference in the kind of coverage for which consumers qualify. If this is the case, consumers may be eligible for a Special Enrollment Period (SEP) to change plans outside of Open Enrollment.
- Changes can also make a difference in the amount of advance payments of the premium tax credit or cost-sharing reductions a consumer is eligible for and may impact the amount of premiums they pay.
- After consumers report changes to the Marketplace, they'll receive a notice explaining what they need to do next, like enroll in new coverage, or adjust their tax credit amounts.

Reportable Changes to the Marketplace

- Type of Life Change/Change in Circumstance
- New person on the application (e.g., birth, marriage, adoption)
- Relocation to a new address
- Loss of access to other coverage (e.g., employer coverage)
- Release from incarceration
- Change in citizenship or immigration status
- Removal of a person from the application (e.g., death, divorce)
- Become incarcerated
- New access to other coverage (e.g., employer coverage, Medicare, Medicaid)
- Pregnancy
- Change in tax filing status/tax household composition
- Change in status as an American Indian/Alaska Native or tribal status
- Change in disability status
- Correction to name, date of birth (DOB), or Social Security number (SSN)
- Increase or decrease in income
- Communication preferences:
 - Email address
 - Phone number
 - Language preferences
 - Add or remove phone text alert
 - Mailing of paper notices

When and How to Report a Life Change

- When changes occur, consumers should report them to the Marketplace as soon as possible.
- If these changes qualify consumers for a Special Enrollment Period to change plans, in most cases they have **60 days** from the life event to enroll in new coverage, or choose their same plan.
- Consumers can report these changes 2 ways:
 - <u>Online</u>: Consumers visit HealthCare.gov and log in to their Marketplace account (or create an account if they don't have one). Select their submitted application, then select "Report a life change" from the menu on the left.
 - <u>By phone</u>: Contact the Marketplace Call Center at 1-800-318-2596. TTY users should call 1-855-889-4325.

The Importance of Reporting a Change in Income

- If consumers' income changes or they gain or lose a member of their household, consumers must come back to the Marketplace and report a life change and provide updated information. All consumers are required to update their Marketplace account within 30 days of changes regarding eligibility standards.
- Consumers who have an increase or decrease in income or gain or lose a household member could qualify for more or less savings than they're getting now. This could change the amount they pay in monthly premiums. Consumers could also qualify for Medicaid or CHIP coverage.
- If consumers don't report these changes, they could wind up having to pay back the difference when they file their federal tax return for the coverage year.

After a Consumer Reports a Life Change

- After consumers report changes to the Marketplace, they'll get a new eligibility notice that will explain:
 - Whether they qualify for a Special Enrollment
 Period that allows them to change plans.
 - Whether they're eligible for lower costs based on their new income, household size, or other changed information.

Special Enrollment Period Eligibility

- If a consumer is eligible for a Special Enrollment Period:
 - The consumer will be able to shop for a different plan in the Marketplace. Consumers usually have 60 days from the date of the qualifying event to enroll in a new plan, or the consumer can remain in the same plan.
- Consumers that have a Special Enrollment Period, can change plans in two ways:
 - **Online:** Visit **HealthCare.gov** and log in to their Marketplace account
 - By phone: Contact the Marketplace Call Center at 1-800-318-2596. TTY users should call 1-855-889-4325.
- Consumers that are not eligible for a Special Enrollment Period, but the amount of advance premium tax credit they qualify for has changed:
 - Consumers can't change plans. But if their advance premium tax credit amount changes, they can choose to adjust the amount of tax credit to apply to their monthly premiums after they report their life change.



II. How to Report a Life Change

Step 1: Consumers Report Changes From Within Their Accounts

 Consumers should visit HealthCare.gov and log in to their Marketplace account (or create an account if they don't have one). Select, "my applications & coverage" from the menu on the left

	You have messages.		
MY APPLICATIONS & COVERAGE	Andre, what would you like to do?		
MY PROFILE			
MESSAGES (2)	Get coverage for:		
	Select Year Select State APPLY OR RENEW		
	Don't see your state? Visit the website of your state-based Marketplace, or call the Marketplace Call Center at 1-800-318-2596 ເຫຼ (TTY:1-855-889-4325). <u>Find your State's website</u> .		
	Your existing applications:		
	Tour existing applications.		
	2015 Pennsylvania application for Status: Submitted		

Step 2: Select Report a Life Change to Report Changes



- Change in citizenship or immigration status
- Change status as American Indian/Alaska Native, or member of federally recognized tribe

REPORT A LIFE CHANGE

- Add or remove members of household
- Marriage, birth or adoption
- Gain or loss of health coverage

Step 3: Consumers See the Changes They Can Report

- Once Consumers have navigated to the "Report Change" functionality on their My Account, they will select the type of change they want to report.
- Please note: Consumers who only want to adjust their APTC amount should select "Change application information" and should continue to click through the application without making any changes unless necessary, until the consumer gets to the eligibility determination screen.



Step 4: Detailed List of Reportable Life Changes



Step 5: Additional Pop-ups on Reporting a Life Change



Step 6: Consumers Answer Questions that Determine Their Eligibility for an SEP, Ex. 1

- Consumers will then get access to their applications and can make edits.
- For example, in the "Additional Information" section, consumers can make changes that may make them eligible for a special enrollment period. In this screenshot, Andre is reporting that he and Bridget recently got married on March 15, 2015.

FAMILY & HOUSEHOLD	
	Did any of these people recently get married? option
	Andre Hill
INFORMATION	When the American Party and an end of the
Andre Hill	when did Andre Hill get marriedr
 Bridget Hill 	
3 Other questions	
a DEVIEW & CICM	Bridget Hill
C REVIEW & SIGN	When did Bridget Hill get married?
	03/15/2015
	MM/DD/YYY
	None of these people

Step 6, cont'd: Consumers Answer Questions that Determine Their Eligibility for an SEP, Ex. 2

• Consumers can also report that they or someone on their application will be losing coverage within the next 60 days.



Changes to Communication Preferences

- Some changes don't affect your coverage or savings, but you still need to report them to the Marketplace (i.e. home address, email address, phone number)
- Note: Previously you had to report these changes to your insurance company and the Marketplace, but now you only have to report them the Marketplace, which will share the information with the insurance company.

8	2015 application for In	dividuals & Families (ID#: 105	991722)	View all applications
0 1	My plans & programs Eligibility & appeals	Communica All fields are required unle	ation preferences ss they're marked optional.	
0 /	Applications details Report a life change	You can make changes to this screen was taken from	the way you get Marketplace information. To n your application.	he information on
•	Communication preferences			
0	Authorized users Exemptions	Email address	bahtester1065@gmail.com	EDIT
0 1	Tax forms	Phone number	517-371-5887 to	EDIT
		Second phone number	er	ADD
		Notifications	 Email Text messages to 517-371-5887 (p) 	EDIT
		Notices	HealthCare.gov Message Center	EDIT

Step 7: Consumers Review Eligibility Results

• Once consumers complete their application (sign and re-submit), their eligibility results will be automatically generated. Consumers can view their Eligibility Results, and then can continue to enroll in a plan.



Eligibility Results

Dear Andre:

Thank you for reporting a change in circumstance to the Marketplace.

What are the results of my application?

Review the table below with your eligibility results.

Family Member(s)	Results	Next Steps
Andre Hill	 Eligible for a special enrollment period 	
Andre Hill	 Eligible to purchase health coverage through the Marketplace, but more information is needed Eligible for a tax credit (\$65.00 each month, which is \$780.00 for the year), but more information is needed 	Send the Marketplace more information
Bridget Hill	Eligible for a special enrollment period	
Bridget Hill	 Eligible to purchase health coverage through the Marketplace, but more information is needed Eligible for a tax credit (\$65.00 each month, which is \$780.00 for the year), but more information is needed 	Send the Marketplace more information

If you have questions: Go to HealthCare.gov/marketplace. Or, call 1-800-318-2596. TTY users should call 1-855-889-4325. The call is free. You can also find out how to talk to someone in person, online or through the help line.

Consumers Ineligible for an SEP Continue to Enrollment

- Enrolled consumers who have updated their information can confirm their current coverage if they are not eligible for an SEP.
- Please note that consumers should ensure that they have selected a new plan or continued to confirm their current coverage after updating their information before logging out of their account. Consumers that log out after receiving their new eligibility results have not completed the enrollment process.



Adjusting the Amount of APTC



- Reminder: Consumers who only want to adjust their APTC amount after they have submitted their application should continue to click through the application without making any changes unless necessary. Once the consumer gets to the eligibility determination screen, gets their eligibility determination and then selects the "Set premium tax credit usage" option on the "Enroll To-Do List" page, the consumer will get to the screen above where he or she can adjust the APTC amount.
- Also note that regular coverage effective dates apply. For example, if a consumer changes the APTC amount between January 1, 2015 and January 15, 2015, the new APTC will be effective on February 1, 2015. If a consumer changes the APTC amount between January 16, 2015 and January 30, 2015, the new APTC will be effective on March 1, 2015.

Consumers Eligible for an SEP Continue on to Plan Compare

• If consumers are eligible for a SEP, they can select from all QHPs available in their service area.

✓ Application	Enrol					0 1
8	Select a health plan for Group 0	Eligible Plans	Saved Plans	0 🔺 Con	npare plans	
	All health plans (6)	If you confirm yo 03/01/2014.	our plan today,	your coverage start	date will be	
	Bronze Plan (1)					
	Silver Plans (2)	6 health pl	ans sor	t by •		
	Gold Plans (2)	Blue Cross and Blue Shield Acompare DITA of Alabama Blue Saver Save Save Bronze Save Save		mpare DETAILS		
	Platinum Plan (1)			ENROLL		
	What do these mean?	Plan ID: 46944AL04600 PPO Bronze National provider n	on etwork			
	3 things to know about Marketplace health plans	Monthly premium \$487.91/mo.	Deductible \$6,350 group total	Out-of-pocket maximum \$6,350	Copayments / Colinsurance No Charge After Deductible Primary doctor No Charge After	
	Learn more about the terms on this page				Deductible Specialist doctor \$20 Generic prescription	
	Narrow your results:	Show more +	00	ental: Child	Plan Brochure Summary of Benefits Provider directory	
	COSTS 3					
	Cost-sharing reduction plans	Blue Cross an of Alabama B	nd Blue Sh Blue Value	nield 🗆 🔺 🙃	re DETAILS	Live Chat

Consumers Eligible for an SEP Confirm Plan Choice



Consumers Ineligible for an SEP Confirm Current Plan Choice

lts Enroll			
K 📄 Review & Con	firm		
0	Confirm your plan c You must confirm your plan	hoices to choices below in order to enr	oll.
	P lan ID: 93602740460006 Health plan for Kiddo A	Health plan monthly premium	\$145.04
	Estimated effective date 05/01/2014		
	Тс	otal \$145.04	
		CON	IFIRM

Review and Confirm Plan

Enroll To-Do List You're not enrolled yet. You must complete each step in order to enroll. Work at your own pace. You can come back to complete these tasks later. You're eligible for a Special Enrollment Period (SEP). You need to complete the tasks below before your SEP ends to get coverage. You can find your SEP dates in your "Eligibility Results." Complete each unlocked task below. Once you've finished, select "Review & Confirm." If you received a notice for a hardship exemption that may qualify you for Catastrophic coverage, please report this exemption(s) before you continue. This allows you to shop for Catastrophic health plans for the people who qualify. **Choosing a Health** ~ Set premium tax credit usage (Bridget and Andre) CHANGE Plan ~ Answer questions about your household. CHANGE Select a health insurance plan 1 (Bridget and Andre) ~ CHANGE Set up your dental plan BExplain this task SET preferences (optional) 2 Explain this task Review and confirm your SET coverage

Confirm Tax Credits and Plan

You've chosen how much of your premium tax credit to use each month.

As you compare plans, the amount of your tax credit will be applied to the monthly premium of each plan.

You may get up to **\$0** as a credit on your federal income tax return at the end of the year. This amount is based on a 12-month coverage year starting in January. But the amount you may get depends on when you enroll. For example, if you enroll in September, the amount of tax credit you may get will be based on 4 months (September-December), instead of 12 months.

After you file your federal tax return, you'll find out if you might get money back based on the actual amount of tax credit you qualified for, and how much of the credit you used. If you didn't use all of the tax credit you qualified for, you may get money back. If you used more tax credit than you qualified for, you may owe money.

If you have income or family size changes, report them to the Marketplace as soon as possible, because life changes can affect your tax credit eligibility status. To report changes, come back to HealthCare.gov and log in to your Marketplace account.

CONFIRM YOUR TAX CREDIT AMOUNT



A To continue, check the box to confirm that you've read the statement above.

Paying for Your Health Plan

 Once consumers have confirmed their advance payment of the premium tax credit amounts, they will pay for the plan. When a consumers clicks "Pay for Health Plan", they will be taken to the health insurance company's website.



Consumers Can See Their Existing and Past Enrollments Under My Plans and Programs

IthCare.gov		Learn Get Insurance		SUSAN 👗 🖈 Logout Español
Alabama				😗 HELP
	2014 application for Indiv	riduals & Families (ID#: 95870455)	View all applications	
	 My plans & programs Eligibility & appeals Applications details Report a life change Communication preferences Authorized users 	MY COVERAGE Maplans & programs Bue Cross and Blue Shield of Jabama Blue Saver Bronze SUSAN Bataus: Initial enrollment Bue Cross and Blue Shield of Jabama Blue Saver Bronze SUSAN Bataus: Initial enrollment Program Blue Saver Bronze SUSAN Bataus: Terminated PAY DOUR FIRST PREMIUM Need to remove your application if the You may need to remove this application if the You from editing, completing, or submitting to Bank application. Learn more before remover	? ere were errors or issues that stopped .Then you can start over with a new, gthis application.	line Chat



III. Next Steps and Resources

Reminder: Coverage Effective Dates

SEP Event	QHP Effective Date
Loss of coverage	If loss of coverage is in the past, 1 st of the month following QHP selection. If loss is in the future, 1 st of the month following the loss of coverage
Marriage	1 st of the next month following plan selection
Denial of Medicaid or CHIP	1 st of the next month following plan selection
Birth, Adoption, Foster Care	Date of birth, adoption, placement for adoption or placement in foster care
Gaining lawfully present status	Within 1 st 15 days of the month: 1 st of the month On or after 16 th of the month: 1 st of the month after next
Newly eligible or ineligible for APTC, change in cost share reductions	Within 1 st 15 days of the month: 1 st of the month On or after 16 th of the month: 1 st of the month after next
Moving & Incarceration Release	Within 1 st 15 days of the month: 1 st of the month On or after 16 th of the month: 1 st of the month after next
Native American status	Within 1 st 15 days of the month: 1 st of the month On or after 16 th of the month: 1 st of the month after next

Assister Tip: Reporting Income Changes and Taxes

• Tip: If at the end of the year you've taken more advance payments of the premium tax credit than you're eligible for based on your final 2015 income, you may have to pay money back when you file your federal income tax return. That's why it's important to report income changes as soon as they happen, and to adjust the amount of tax credit you take in advance.

Assister Tip: Income Data Matching Issues

 Consumers whose expected annual household income changes during the year should report this change to the Marketplace by returning to their application and entering a "change in circumstance." This may help consumers avoid receiving an incorrect amount of financial assistance or having an income data matching issue.

For More Information

- Reporting a Life Change: <u>https://www.healthcare.gov/how-do-i-report-life-changes-to-the-marketplace/</u>
 - Fact Sheet: <u>https://marketplace.cms.gov/outreach-and-education/report-life-changes.pdf</u>
 - Post Card: <u>https://marketplace.cms.gov/outreach-and-education/report-changes-postcard.pdf</u>
 - Helping New Parents and their Children Enroll: <u>https://marketplace.cms.gov/technical-assistance-resources/helping-new-parents-enroll.pdf</u>
 - Tips for Assisting Young Adults: <u>https://marketplace.cms.gov/technical-assistance-resources/assisting-young-adults.pdf</u>
 - Tips for Assisting Consumers who are Losing Employer-Sponsored Coverage: <u>https://marketplace.cms.gov/technical-assistance-resources/assisting-consumers-losing-coverage.pdf</u>
- Qualifying for an SEP: <u>https://www.healthcare.gov/coverage-outside-open-enrollment/special-enrollment-period/</u>
- Tax Information: <u>https://www.healthcare.gov/taxes/how-coverage-affects-taxes/</u>
- Terminating Coverage: <u>https://marketplace.cms.gov/technical-assistance-resources/12-12-14-select-different-cancel-terminate-plan-presentation-final-12-12-14v3_for508.pdf</u>

Disclaimer

Please note that the information included in this presentation is solely illustrative. Several slides contain screenshots with names and/or specific issuers/plans. The purpose of these screenshots are to provide examples. Names presented are made up and issuer/plan names displayed were selected at random. These examples do not include personally identifiable information and are not an endorsement of specific issuers/plans.