

Aetna Life Insurance Company
South Carolina Small Group
PPO Products

Summary

Aetna is filing premium rates for Small Group plans in South Carolina.

The new rates will apply to plan years effective in 2020. The current membership and range of rate changes by product are:

Product Name	# Members as of March 2018	Range of Increases
PPO	27	13.3%

Why We Need to Increase Premiums

Medical costs are going up and we are changing our rates to reflect this increase. We expect medical costs to go up 13.3% excluding the effect of benefit or cost sharing changes. Medical costs go up for two reasons – providers raise their prices and members get more medical care.

What Else Affects Our Request to Increase Premiums

Changes to cost-sharing for some plans were made to comply with the actuarial value requirements or make our plans more attractive to consumers.

Our estimate of average population health and the expected risk adjustment transfers for Affordable Care Act (ACA) products have changed to reflect new data on market average premiums and population health. These changes are affected by the movement of business between the ACA market and other options.

Claims experience for this market has been worse than anticipated. Part of the rate increase is needed to ensure that we can continue to offer coverage in this market.

Will Premiums for All Small Groups Increase 13.3%?

No, the exact rate change depends on what benefit plan the group chooses, where the group is located, when the group’s contract renews, and the ages and family sizes of enrolling employees. Rates charged to employees also depend upon any change in the amount of premium paid by the employer.

How does this request align to Minimum Loss Ratio Requirements (MLR)?

These rates are expected to produce an MLR equal to or above the 80% requirement for Small Group business. Under the ACA, at least 80% of the premiums collected by health plans are expected to pay for medical care and activities that improve health care quality for members. If the actual MLR turns out to be less than 80%, rebates will be issued to members in accordance with the law.

Aetna makes significant investments that benefit our members that the government does not allow us to use in this calculation. These investments include customer service, health quality activities like disease management programs, and the development of new information technologies.

What is Aetna doing to keep premiums affordable?

Aetna strives to keep our products as affordable as possible and to address the underlying cost of health care. We are:

- Developing new agreements, arrangements, and partnerships with health care providers that base provider compensation on the quality of care.
- Creating medical management programs that address potential health issues for members earlier, improving health outcomes and reducing the need for high-cost health care services.
- Working to reduce the ability of out-of-network providers to collect unreasonably excessive payments for services they provide.

We are dedicated to increasing transparency within the health care system and helping members best utilize the plans that they have. Members can access Aetna Navigator, a secure member website, which allows them to research their specific plan benefits, health care providers in a given area, and in some locations, the cost of certain health care services. The Aetna Navigator streamlined mobile app is also available to allow members to take their care on the go.