NEWS FROM MRMIB

The Managed Risk Medical Insurance Board

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California's Pre-Existing Condition Insurance Plan Will Transition to Federal Program July 1

Subscribers in California's Pre-Existing Condition Insurance Plan will be transitioned to the federal government's plan on July 1, in a move to manage PCIP costs nationwide.

This decision by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services ensures that California's PCIP subscribers will continue to receive benefits until the state's health benefit exchange, Covered California, becomes operational January 1, 2014.

"We have had a very positive collaboration with CMS in the opportunity to design and implement this important program for uninsured Californians with pre-existing conditions," said Cliff Allenby, chairman of the Managed Risk Medical Insurance Board, which oversees California's PCIP. "While this will be a change for our subscribers, it is a positive one in that it ensures their health coverage through year's end."

MRMIB staff will work closely with CMS to assure a smooth transition and will send subscribers an official Notice of Transition before May 31, 2013. A confirming Enrollment Letter from the National Finance Center with instructions on how to activate enrollment will be sent to subscribers by CMS on or about June 10. Both MRMIB's PCIP website, www.pcip.ca.gov, and the federal government's PCIP website, www.pcip.gov, will be updated to reflect the transfer.

Both the MRMIB and CMS subscriber notices will provide the toll-free number for the federal PCIP, 1-866-717-5826, which is operational Monday through Friday from 5 a.m. to 8 p.m. The federal PCIP TTY number is 1-866-561-1604.

California's PCIP opened for business on October 25, 2010. Although being the last state in the nation to begin PCIP operations, the state's program quickly became the largest in enrollment in the nation and currently has 17,177 subscribers. A total of 23,156 California's benefitted from PCIP coverage since its inception. California was among 27 states operating its own PCIP as a contractor to the federal government. The other 23 states were provided PCIP through the federally administered program.

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