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HHS Office of Intergovernmental and External Affairs News Bulletin: Friday, April 25th, 2014

Visit HHS.gov/Healthcare and CuidadodeSalud.Gov, two consumer-focused health care websites to: *find insurance options, compare care quality, and learn about the law*. How is the Affordable Care Act helping you? Share your story [here](#).

ACA News

* April 24, 2014

For individuals that are losing coverage on April 30, 2014, through the Pre-Existing Condition Insurance Program, (PCIP) they are able to enroll into a health insurance plan under the Special Enrollment Period. Section 1101 of the Affordable Care Act establishes a “temporary high risk health insurance pool program” to provide health coverage to eligible uninsured individuals with pre-existing conditions. The program, carried out by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) directly in some states and through contracts in other states and known as the Pre-Existing Condition Insurance Program (PCIP), has provided coverage to these eligible individuals since 2010. Section 1101(g)(3)(B) authorizes the Secretary of HHS to develop procedures to provide for the transition of PCIP enrollees into qualified health plans offered through an Exchange (also called Health Insurance Marketplace). This section also requires the Secretary of HHS to develop procedures to ensure that there is no lapse in coverage for these enrollees, including extending coverage after plan termination if she determines that an extension is necessary to avoid such a lapse. While the majority of enrollees transitioned out of PCIP coverage on January 1, 2014, the Secretary determined that an extension of PCIP coverage was necessary to avoid a lapse in coverage for PCIP enrollees who, on January 1, 2014, were not yet enrolled in other coverage. Thus, these individuals were offered transitional coverage beginning on January 1, 2014 and extending through April 30, 2014. **PCIP Bulletin** is available [here](#) and the **PCIP Fact Sheet** is available [here](#).

* April 24, 2014

If you own a small business, health care insurance for your employees might cost you a trifling sum of money. However, small businesses now have several health care options for their employees through the Small Business Health Options Program (SHOP) Marketplace. The SHOP Marketplace is open to employers with 50 or less full-time employee (FTEs), and the FTE calculator is the first step in determining whether your business is eligible for several cost-effective options to keep a healthy work force at a low cost – you can read more about it [here](#).

* April 23, 2014

For small business owners, purchasing health care insurance for its employees might have been too expensive to consider in the past, however, small businesses now have several health coverage options through the Small Business Health Options Program (SHOP) Marketplace. Through the SHOP, Small businesses may qualify for a tax credit worth up to 50% of your contribution toward employees' premium costs (up to 35% for tax-exempt employers). Small businesses can see if they qualify for the tax credit by using the Tax Credit Estimator that is available [here](#).

HHS News

✱ April 22, 2014

Two entities paid the Department of Health and Human Services Office for Civil Rights (OCR) nearly \$2 million dollars in payment for their failure to protect sensitive HHS data, a costly mistake. To understand the damage done and action steps going forward from this incident, read more [here](#).

Health Care Blog Posts

✱ April 23, 2013

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) released a [new interactive search tool](#) that can help consumers and other stakeholders navigate information about the types of medical services and procedures delivered by physicians and other healthcare professionals. Users can search for a provider by name, address, or National Provider Identifier (NPI). Once a user selects a provider, the tool returns information about the services the provider furnished to Medicare beneficiaries, including the number of services provided, the number of beneficiaries treated, and the average payment and charges for such services. You can read more about this new interaction tool that makes it easier to access data on physicians [here](#).

✱ April 23, 2013

Purchasing health coverage for your employees through the Small Business Health options Program (SHOP) Marketplace may allow you to qualify for a tax credit worth up to 50% of your premium contributions. This blog explains some key things you should know about the tax credit and how to apply for SHOP. You can read the blog [here](#).

Educational Materials

Below you'll find materials related to the implementation of the Affordable Care Act.

Info-Graphahics

View all our **Flickr Info-Graphs** page [here](#).

How Obamacare Prices Shake Out: <http://m.huffpost.com/us/entry/3990491/>

Public Service Announcement/Address

Health Insurance Marketplace

For more information about the Health Insurance Marketplace including official resources, research, news, and events visit <http://marketplace.cms.gov/>

Marketplace Updates

For information on how to sign up for coverage through the Health Insurance Marketplace, including text message and email updates visit <http://www.healthcare.gov/marketplace/index.html>

State by State Fact Sheets

Choose your state to learn more about the immediate benefits of the Affordable Care Act, <http://www.healthcare.gov/law/information-for-you/index.html>