

FAQs about Proposed Health Insurance Rate Filings

Q: Can the Department disapprove a health insurance rate filing if the rate is too high?

A: No. The Department cannot prevent a company from charging the proposed rate, even if state regulators find that the rate is “unreasonable” under Missouri law. The rate review process provides transparency about how companies develop their rates and allows the Department to verify the reasonableness of the assumptions made by the company and the rates they propose.

Q: How can I make my comments?

A: The [SERFF Filing Access](#) on our website is the preferred method for making sure a comment is received timely and directed to the appropriate filing. You may also submit your comments by sending them to the Department in writing to: Missouri Department of Insurance, ATTN: Health Insurance Rates, P.O. Box 690, Jefferson City, MO 65102-0690.

Q: Are there any rates the Department anticipates will be found to be “unreasonable”?

A: We are not speculating at this time as to reasonableness of any of the proposed rates. All rates are currently under review, which includes consideration of public comments and consideration of the supporting documentation each company provided to justify their proposed rates.

Q: How will the public know if the Department has determined that a rate is reasonable or unreasonable?

A: Final rates will be made available to the public no later than November 1, the date open enrollment is scheduled to begin. Each filing, available through the Department’s website, will be clearly labeled as “Reasonable” or “Unreasonable.”

Q: Do these filings show the actual monthly rates a consumer will be charged?

A: Some of the filings will. Look for a document called “Rate Tables”, a document that lists every plan, by rating area and age, and in some cases, rates for smokers and non-smokers. Other data in the filings include the average rate increase for each company, and the minimum and maximum rate increase included in the filing.

Q: Which of these rate filings applies to ME?

A: The Department only reviews the rates of health insurance plans that are fully insured. In Missouri, that is coverage for about 1.7 million Missourians. The proposed rates released by the Department are for plans that will be purchased by individuals and small businesses with 50 or fewer employees. The following types of health plans are NOT included in these filings:

- Health plans that are offered through the federal government, including the federal employee health plans and TRICARE;
- Medicare, Medicaid, or other federal health plans;
- Health plans that are self-funded by an employer (for example, the State of Missouri, Boeing, Hallmark, other large companies in Missouri); and
- Health plans offered by an employer whose headquarters is in another state.

Q: I've heard about insurance companies leaving the state. How can a consumer like me comparison shop when there is only one plan to choose from in my area?

A: Keep in mind, there is a difference between companies and plans. It is true that on the exchange, there are some counties where there is only one insurance company offering exchange plans in the county. However, companies offer multiple plans in each county. And consumers are not limited to buying plans on the exchange. There are multiple plan options in every county, both on and off the exchange.

Q: I see the term "Index Rate" in the rate filings. Is this what I will pay for health insurance coverage? What does this mean to me?

A: The "Index Rate" is a company's core cost of medical claims that are "essential health benefits." The Index Rate is the same regardless which plan you buy from that company. The Index Rate is the starting point for determining the monthly premium you will pay. The premium you actually pay will reflect differences based on the deductibles and co-payment amounts of the plan you buy, where you live, whether you smoke, and how old you are.

Q: Will I be able to see my actual premium rate in the rate filings?

A: No. These are "proposed" rates. The final rates won't be published until November 1st.