



PO Box 1090
Great Bend, KS 67530
Fax: (620) 793-1199
www.wship.org
Questions? Call 1-800-877-5187
¿Preguntas? Teléfono 1-800-877-5187

November 2017

IMPORTANT NOTICE

- Re: - Premium Rate Change Effective January 1, 2018**
- Eligibility Verification Form Due December 15, 2017**
- Standard Plans Discontinued for 2018**
- How to Renew or Enroll in New Coverage for 2018**

Your Current Plan is:

«Plan»

Dear «First»,

This letter contains important information about your **premium rate change effective January 1, 2018** and Eligibility Verification Form that must be returned to us by December 15 to renew WSHIP coverage.

We have also included information about how to buy new coverage from the Washington Healthplanfinder or directly from an insurance company. You cannot be turned down or charged more due to pre-existing conditions, and premiums may be less than WSHIP. Your savings may be even greater if you qualify for federal tax credits for coverage purchased from the Washington Healthplanfinder.

Please read this information carefully and contact us at **1-800-877-5187** if you have any questions.

2018 WSHIP Premium Rates

Your WSHIP monthly premium rate will be changing effective January 1, 2018. The following is important information about our 2018 rates:

- All rates have been calculated in accordance with Washington State law (RCW 48.41.200).
- Rates for WSHIP Preferred Provider Plans continue to be set as low as the law will allow.
- Rates are segmented into five geographic regions within the State of Washington.
- Please consult the **enclosed rate chart** to locate the rates for WSHIP plans available in 2018. Your rate will be based on plan selection, geographic location, age, and tobacco-use status.

Eligibility Verification Form Due December 15, 2017

WSHIP is required to verify continued eligibility of all enrollees. This eligibility verification requirement is combined with our yearly rate notice to simplify the process of returning this information to us. Please return the enclosed purple form by December 15.

[Type here]

WSHIP Standard Plans Discontinued

WSHIP Standard Plans will not be available in 2018, and coverage for individuals currently enrolled in a WSHIP Standard Plan will automatically end on December 31, 2017. Enrollees have the option of enrolling in a WSHIP Preferred Provider Plan or buying new coverage from the Washington Healthplanfinder or private market. To avoid a gap in coverage, enrollment in a new plan must be made by December 15.

How to Renew or Buy New Coverage for 2018

If you are currently enrolled in a WSHIP Preferred Provider Plan, you have the option to renew your current WSHIP plan, change to a new WSHIP plan (some restrictions apply) or buy new coverage from the Washington Healthplanfinder or private market.

If you are currently enrolled in a WSHIP Standard Plan, your WSHIP coverage will automatically end on December 31, 2017. You must enroll in a new plan by December 15 to avoid a gap in coverage. You have the option to enroll in a WSHIP Preferred Provider plan, or buy new coverage from the Washington Healthplanfinder or private market.

In making your choice, please consider the following information:

- **WSHIP premiums are higher**
 - By law, WSHIP premiums are generally higher than premiums in the market so we encourage you to explore all of your coverage options. You can't be turned down or charged more because you have a pre-existing condition.
 - Your savings may be even greater if you qualify for federal tax credits available for coverage purchased through the Washington Healthplanfinder.
- **December 15 is the deadline for January 1, 2018 coverage**
 - You must renew or enroll in new coverage by December 15 for a January 1 effective date.
 - Open enrollment for the Washington Healthplanfinder or when buying from an insurance company begins November 1. WSHIP's open enrollment begins November 15.
- **If you cancel your WSHIP coverage or it is terminated, you may not be able to re-enroll in WSHIP**
 - You can only re-enroll in WSHIP if an individual health plan is not offered in your county during defined open enrollment or special enrollment periods or you become eligible for WSHIP's Medicare plan. Generally, you must also wait until 12 months have elapsed since your WSHIP termination to re-enroll.
- **Check to see if you are eligible for Medicaid (also called "Apple Health")**
 - Medicaid is the joint state-federal government health insurance program for lower-income individuals. It was expanded in our state as part of the Affordable Care Act.
 - If you are eligible for Medicaid, you are no longer eligible for WSHIP coverage. To avoid a retroactive cancellation of your WSHIP coverage, please be sure to check your eligibility for Medicaid if you think you may qualify.
 - There is no open enrollment period for Medicaid, so you can apply throughout the year. You can submit a single application through Washington Healthplanfinder to find out if you are eligible for Medicaid or federal tax credits. For more information about Medicaid, please visit www.hca.wa.gov or www.wahealthplanfinder.org.

[Type here]

Steps for Renewing, Changing, or Buying New Coverage For 2018	
Step 1	Review the enclosed WSHIP 2018 Monthly Premium Rates.
Step 2	Find out if you are eligible for Medicaid or federal tax credits for plans offered through Washington Healthplanfinder. Call 1-855-923-4633 or visit www.wahealthplanfinder.org .
Step 3	Compare your options. Compare your WSHIP coverage and premium to coverage options available through Washington Healthplanfinder or directly from insurance companies. When comparing plans, be sure to also look at their provider network and prescription drug formulary. Out-of-pocket costs can be substantially higher if you use out-of-network providers or non-formulary prescription drugs. If you have questions, please contact your insurance agent or broker, or call the Washington Healthplanfinder at 1-855-923-4633 or WSHIP Customer Service at 1-800-877-5187.
Step 4	To renew WSHIP coverage or change WSHIP plans: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Fill out and return the enclosed (purple) Eligibility Verification Form <u>by December 15</u>.2. If you want to change to a different WSHIP plan, also fill out and return the enclosed (pink) Plan Change Form <u>by December 15</u>. <p><u>OR</u></p> <p>To cancel your WSHIP coverage and buy new coverage:</p> <p>Please use the enclosed postage-paid return envelope to let us know you are cancelling your WSHIP coverage. If we do not receive notice of cancellation, your coverage will be renewed pending receipt of your Eligibility Verification Form.</p>

Questions?

If you have questions or need assistance during this year's WSHIP open enrollment, please call WSHIP Customer Service at **1-800-877-5187** or visit our website at www.wship.org. Information for Washington Healthplanfinder is available at www.wahealthplanfinder.org or by calling 1-855-923-4633.

Enclosures:

- **2018 WSHIP Premium Rates**
- **Eligibility Verification Form** (Purple Paper) – **RETURN by December 15**
- **Plan Change Form** (Pink Paper) – **RETURN by December 15** along with your Eligibility Verification Form if you would like to change WSHIP plans. This form may also be used to report any changes to your address or telephone number; simply draw a line through any incorrect information and write the correct information next to it.
- **Personalized Schedule of Benefits**
- **2018 Benefit Plans Summary and Comparison Chart**
- **Return Envelope**

IMPORTANT REMINDERS!

December 15 is the deadline to return WSHIP Eligibility Verification Form and Plan Change Form.

Standard Plan enrollees must enroll in new plan by December 15 to avoid a gap in coverage.