

NEWS FROM MRMIB

The Managed Risk Medical Insurance Board

Pre-Existing Condition Insurance Plan Questions and Answers

Q. If I currently have insurance that is very expensive, can I switch to this new program?

A. No. Unfortunately, federal law prohibits anyone with insurance or who has had insurance within six months of application from eligibility for PCIP.

Q. What if I disenroll in my current health plan and wait for six months to seek PCIP coverage?

A. The state of California cannot advise you on this decision.

Q. How do the premiums compare to MRMIP?

A. PCIP premiums are more than 40 percent cheaper than the cost of coverage provided by the state's high-risk pool for persons with pre-existing conditions: the Major Risk Medical Insurance Program (MRMIP). For example, for a 50-year-old resident of San Francisco, coverage through PCIP would cost \$499 monthly; for the corresponding plan under MRMIP, the monthly cost would be \$915.

Q. What is the difference between the benefits of PCIP and MRMIP?

A. Both plans offer broad coverage; however, PCIP does not have any annual or lifetime limits while MRMIP caps coverage at \$75,000 annually and \$750,000 for lifetime.

Q. Exactly what does PCIP cover?

A. PCIP covers inpatient and outpatient care provided by doctors, psychologists, hospitals, laboratories and imaging centers; the plan also offers generic and brand-name drugs purchased through mail order or a large pharmacy network; disease management services; 24-hour nurse advice and online services.

Q. The federal government is providing the state of California with \$761 million to pay for PCIP. Why do I have to pay premiums too?

A. The federal allocation pays for approximately 65 percent of the cost of coverage and the individual is expected to pay for 35 percent of the coverage. This offers a person with pre-existing conditions coverage at a cost no more than what a person without pre-existing conditions would pay in the open-market.

Q. How can I get more information on PCIP?

A. Visit the program website at www.pcip.ca.gov or call 1-877-428-5060.

MRMIP

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