



Health Care Reform Update

April 13, 2010

www.siho.org

In This Edition

- **Consumer Health Information Web Portals**
- **Department of Health and Human Services Webchat**

Health Benefit Information/Exchange Portals

A requirement of the newly adopted health care legislation is that within a few months a new website will be available to provide easy to understand information to help consumers make informed choices based on their needs. This site will allow consumers to compare different insurance coverage options and provide access to state-by-state health care consumer assistance and an ombudsman for any of their health insurance questions.

- The roll out date for this is **July 1, 2010**.
- Information must be provided on private health coverage options, Medicaid, CHIP, the new high-risk pool coverage and existing state high-risk pool options.

This information-based online portal will eventually be supplemented by a new online marketplace or “Exchange” — a competitive and consumer-friendly private insurance shopping center for those who are not covered by an employer-based insurance plan. This national program will continue until January 1, 2014, at which point the Exchanges (and the online portals) will operate through the individual States.

Department of Health and Human Services offers online answers

Next up in the Department of Health and Human Services’ webchat series on health insurance reform, the top White House health care expert will answer questions. *Nancy-Ann DeParle*, Director of the White House Office of Health Reform will join HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius for a discussion on how the new Affordable Care Act will impact you.

Join the conversation at 4 p.m. EDT on Thursday, April 15th at

<http://www.hhs.gov/live>.

Send questions at Healthreform@hhs.gov. They will also take questions live via Twitter during the webchat. These can be submitted via Twitter at [@HHSGov](https://twitter.com/HHSGov).

Please be aware that the regulations surrounding this legislation have not yet been finalized. These regulations usually take several months to be drafted and accepted as the intent of this legislation is understood and clarified.

You are receiving this message as courtesy of the SIHO Insurance Services Communications Team. If you have questions or comments specific to newsletter distribution, please contact Chris Asher (Chris.Asher@SIHO.org) or Andrew Kirk (Andrew.Kirk@siho.org). If you wish to be removed from this newsletter, please reply directly to this message asking to ‘unsubscribe’.