



NARRATIVE SUMMARY

Community-Rated Small Group Commercial Comprehensive Premium Rate Filings Plan Year 2021

Healthfirst Insurance Company, Inc. (“Healthfirst”) has submitted to the New York Department of Financial Services (DFS) an application to adjust premium rates for small group market health insurance coverage effective in 2021. Healthfirst has requested an increase in premium rates for plans offered in 2021. The Department of Financial Services is reviewing Healthfirst’s requested premium rate increase and will determine if the rates are appropriate based on the available evidence.

The requested rate adjustments will affect all currently enrolled small group market subscribers renewing coverage for the 2021 calendar year as well as new small group policies issued during the 2021 calendar year. Final rate adjustments approved by DFS will be effective January 1, 2021. The rates are guaranteed for a 12-month period ending December 31, 2021 and are subject to New York’s community rating and guarantee issue laws. Subscribers’ rates will vary according to the benefit plan in which they enroll, as well as the census/family tier they select.

As of the date of the submission of this Narrative Summary, approximately 10,200 covered lives (i.e., subscribers and their covered dependents) are estimated to be affected by the rate adjustment.

A Description of Your Premium Rate

Your health insurance premium rate has two main components. One is the costs of paying for medical care and the other is Healthfirst’s administrative costs.

1. **Medical care costs.** The largest portion of your health insurance premium rate goes toward paying for the costs of the medical claims submitted by you and other members enrolled in Healthfirst’s small group market plans. Under New York law, at least 82 percent of the premium Healthfirst’s members pay must be put toward paying for the costs of medical claims. More than 82 percent of Healthfirst’s premium dollars is used for paying medical expenses.
2. **Administrative costs.** Administrative expenses include a wide range of services and functions, such as processing claims and upgrading technology to keep pace with the rapidly changing health care sector. It also accounts for an array of member-centric expenses such as conducting medical necessity reviews, managing members’ complex and chronic conditions, maintaining a robust provider network, and partnering with the community on health education initiatives.

Healthfirst takes a meaningful and evidence-based approach to determining how much of a rate adjustment to request from DFS.

Your Rate Adjustment Explained

Healthfirst is applying for a rate adjustment to account for marketplace trends and to reflect actual and anticipated claims costs. While several market forces continue to drive health care costs higher more generally, Healthfirst continues to strengthen the effectiveness of its care management and quality improvement programs and robust network. When combining all factors, Healthfirst rates increase overall by 5.5% from 2020 to 2021.

The premium rate increases, by plan metal level, Healthfirst is requesting are summarized in the table below:

<u>Plan Name</u>	<u>Requested Change</u>
Healthfirst Bronze Pro EPO, Healthfirst Bronze Pro Plus EPO, Healthfirst Bronze 6650 Pro, & Healthfirst Bronze 6650 Pro Plus	NYC: 5.5% Long Island: 5.5%
Healthfirst Silver Pro EPO, Healthfirst Silver Pro Plus EPO, Healthfirst Silver 40/75/4700 Pro, & Healthfirst Silver 40/75/4700 Pro Plus	NYC: 5.5% Long Island: 5.5%
Healthfirst Gold Pro EPO, Healthfirst Gold Pro Plus EPO, Healthfirst Gold 25/50/0 Pro & Healthfirst Gold 25/50/0 Pro Plus	NYC: 5.5% Long Island: 5.5%
Healthfirst Platinum Pro EPO & Healthfirst Platinum Pro Plus EPO	NYC: 5.5% Long Island: 5.5%

Final Rate Adjustment

The final rate adjustment that Healthfirst members experience may differ than what DFS eventually approves. Healthfirst will notify its currently enrolled members approximately 60 days prior to the new rate taking effect.