

OptimaHealth NEWS RELEASE

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www.optimahealth.com/newscenter**OPTIMA HEALTH REMAINS IN 2018 AFFORDABLE CARE ACT EXCHANGE***Optima will continue to offer Individual plans on and off the Exchange*

NORFOLK, Va.—Optima Health announced today it will continue to participate in the Individual market, offering plans both on and off the Affordable Care Act (ACA) Exchange, in Virginia in 2018.

“From day one, our desire has been to find a way to stay in the ACA Exchange,” said Michael M. Dudley, President and CEO, Optima Health.

With three national insurers—Anthem, Aetna and UnitedHealthcare—leaving the market, over 350,000 Virginians will be losing their healthcare coverage on January 1, 2018. The exiting of carriers along with the uncertainty in Washington, presented unprecedented circumstances.

“The decisions we made were challenging ones given the recent changes and ambiguities in the marketplace,” said Dudley. “Our most recent filing with the state reflects these dynamic changes, as would be expected in these circumstances.”

Optima Health is limiting its Individual plans offered on and off the 2018 ACA Exchange to locations where there are Sentara Healthcare hospitals and physicians. This will allow Optima Health to better manage chronic conditions to keep members healthy.

In addition, there will be a premium increase. For any 2017 ACA covered participant qualifying for a subsidy, their 2018 increase will be 1.5% or an average of \$4 per month. This means 70% of Optima Health Individual plan members will have their increases mostly absorbed by the government. For the remaining 30% of Optima Health Individual plan members, there will be an average 81.8% increase to premiums. Approximately 20% of this increase is our originally planned rate increase, 23% accounts for the uncertainty of Cost Sharing Reductions (CSRs) not being funded and the remainder is caused by the withdrawal of the national carriers.

Optima Health will continue to serve the Hampton Roads and Harrisonburg markets and will add the Charlottesville area, Halifax County and Mecklenburg County. Despite having a Sentara hospital and medical facilities in Northern Virginia, Optima Health will not serve that market due to the presence of other carriers covering it.

“Health care is an ever-changing landscape. While this is not the outcome we had hoped, it will allow us to continue to serve 80% of our existing members and provide an option for another 70,000 Virginians who are losing their current insurance plan,” said Dudley. “We believe it is important to continue serving as many people as we can and fulfill our mission to improve health every day. The only other alternative would have been to completely exit the Exchange, and that goes against our mission.”

Members will be notified of their changes in October. In the meantime, they may contact their broker or an Optima Health personal plan advisor to learn more and talk about their options.

Optima Health will continue to serve its existing markets with its employer-based, Medicare and Medicaid plans.

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About Optima Health

Optima Health, based in Virginia, provides health insurance coverage to approximately 450,000 members. With more than 30 years of experience in the health insurance arena, Optima Health offers a suite of commercial products including

consumer-directed, employee-owned and employer-sponsored plans, individual health plans, employee assistance programs and plans serving Medicare and Medicaid enrollees. Its provider network features 26,000 providers including specialists, primary care physicians and hospitals across Virginia. Optima Health also offers programs to support members with chronic illnesses, customized wellness programs and integrated clinical and behavioral health services, as well as pharmacy management – all to help members improve their health. The company's goals are to provide better health, be easy to use and offer services that are a great value. To learn more about Optima Health, visit www.optimahealth.com.