



Independence Edge

August 10, 2017

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Required outreach for IRS Reporting to begin

As part of our 2017 outreach to prepare for required IRS reporting, we are coordinating with Highmark to [mail a letter and form](#) to subscribers beginning the week of August 14, in order to capture missing or incorrect subscriber-submitted Social Security Numbers (SSNs) or Individual Taxpayer Identification Numbers (ITINs). This mailing provides a record of outreach in compliance with Affordable Care Act audit requirements.

The mailing will target subscribers (as well as their covered dependents) if they've been identified as having either missing or incorrect SSNs/ITINs since our last outreach in October 2016. Subscribers will be asked to resubmit this information using a form enclosed with the letter. We will mail subscribers up to two times if they fail to respond.

We will also mail a [letter to fully-insured customers](#) with affected subscribers to notify them beginning the week of August 7. As a reminder, customers who have self-funded coverage are responsible for their own data collection and reporting to the IRS.

Why is this information needed?

To comply with required annual IRS reporting, Independence must make

from subscribers who purchased plans individually off-exchange, as well as from subscribers of fully insured groups. A TIN can be a Social Security Number (SSN) or an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN).

Independence uses the SSN/ITIN for its IRS reporting and to issue subscribers a 1095–B tax form. The purpose of the 1095–B form is for individuals to verify minimum essential health care coverage during the previous calendar year on their federal tax return. Individuals who do not provide Independence with an accurate SSN/ITIN may be subject to a \$50 IRS penalty.

Please ensure your customers continue to provide us with regular member updates to help reduce the need for this mailing.

If you have questions about the annual mailing, please contact your Brown & Brown broker consultant.

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1901 Market Street | Philadelphia, PA 19103

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