

ACCESS HEALTH CT CEO WADLEIGH: “SHOP AROUND AND COMPARE YOUR OPTIONS FOR 2017 – THAT’S THE PURPOSE OF THE MARKETPLACE”

HARTFORD, Conn. (December 2, 2016) – Access Health CT (AHCT) CEO James Wadleigh today issued a statement reminding all AHCT customers to update their health insurance applications and shop for and compare plans for 2017.

“The market has been changing this year, and there’s been a lot of speculation,” said AHCT CEO James Wadleigh. “Our priority has always been and will continue to be our customers. We want people to have coverage – so we’re laying out exactly what steps to take.”

“The first thing customers can do is get all their documents together,” advised Wadleigh. “Then, they should make sure to update their applications with current income, household and address information, and all other information as it impacts prices and financial help.”

It’s important to update your application so that it accurately reflects current financial and household information. To have coverage beginning January 1st, 2017, customers must purchase a health insurance plan by midnight on December 15th. It is also recommended that customers update application information by midnight on December 15th, too.

“With all the changes that happened this year - the reductions to the number of AHCT carriers, discontinued/different plans - even if customers are signed up for auto-renewal, there might be an opportunity for them to have a better plan, lower premiums, or financial help,” said Wadleigh. “So we are encouraging every customer to update their information and to shop and compare plans.”

On December 1st, AHCT’s automatic renewal process began. The AHCT eligibility system will automatically enroll into 2017 coverage customers who have selected auto-renew and whose plans are still available. “But, there are 26,000 people who currently have coverage through AHCT who cannot auto-renew and must take action to renew their 2017 plans,” Wadleigh noted. Wadleigh reminds all customers “they should shop around and compare your options for 2017– that’s the purpose of the marketplace.”

Those who will need to shop for and choose a new plan for 2017 include, but are not limited to, customers who had 2016 coverage with HealthyCT, United Healthcare, and those whose plans have been discontinued.

Everyone should take these steps before midnight on December 15th to avoid any gaps in coverage.

The following chart illustrates the open enrollment deadlines for 2017:

If you enroll <u>by</u> this date:	Your coverage will <u>begin</u> this date:
December 15, 2016	January 1, 2017

January 15, 2017	February 1, 2017
January 31, 2017 – last day to enroll for 2017 coverage	March 1, 2017

The following information or documents are required to enroll in a health plan through AHCT:

- Social Security numbers
- Visa, green card or other immigration documents
- Most recent tax return
- Employer Information including employer sponsored coverage information
- Current insurance coverage

AHCT provides many ways for customers to enroll in healthcare coverage, with options in-person, over the phone, and online. People can find this information in the following ways:

- Online at Learn.AccessHealthCT.com
- By phone at 1-855-805- 4325 | TTY: 1-855-789-2428
- Visit an AHCT Enrollment Center in New Britain or New Haven
- Visit a Community Enrollment Partner in East Hartford, Norwich or Stamford
- Find an Enrollment Specialist (Certified Application Counselor) at one of our community partners including hospitals, health advocacy groups and local community support centers or to find a Certified broker to help select a healthcare plan visit the [Get Help](#) section of our site.

The Access Health CT call center will be open during Open Enrollment Monday – Friday 8:00 am to 6:00 pm and Saturday from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm.

Customers who enroll in healthcare coverage will avoid federal tax penalties and may be eligible for financial help. Residents who are not able to provide proof of insurance when filing taxes may have to pay a penalty of \$695, or 2.5% of their household income, whichever is greater.

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About Access Health CT

Access Health CT (AHCT), Connecticut’s official health insurance marketplace, is a quasi-public agency created by the Connecticut legislature in 2011 to satisfy requirements of the federal Affordable Care Act. AHCT’s mission is to increase the number of insured residents in Connecticut, promote health, lower costs, and eliminate health disparities. Connecticut residents and small business owners can compare and enroll in health care coverage and apply for tax credits for individuals through AHCT. AHCT (or the Marketplace) also partners with the Dept. of Social Services for eligibility and enrollment with state Medicaid Insurance and Children’s Health Insurance Programs. For more information, please visit www.AccessHealthCT.com, like us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/AccessHealthCT and follow us on Twitter @AccessHealthCT.

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