



## Important Information About Paying Your Premium and Grace Periods

Your insurance premiums help pay medical claims, fund quality health and wellness programs, and improve services. And because HealthyCT is nonprofit, none of your premium dollars will ever go to shareholders.

### **Paying Your Premium**

Paying the full amount you owe on the first day of each month is an important responsibility. But the new healthcare law gives you some protection if your payment is late.

Full payment is due on the 1<sup>st</sup> of the month. If your payment is late and you:

- **Don't get a government tax credit that pays part of your premium**, your grace period ends on the last day of the month. If we don't receive payment by then, we will cancel your coverage as of that date.
- **Get a government tax credit**, you have a 3-month grace period. If we don't get your full payment by the last day of the grace period, we will cancel your policy. Your coverage will end as of the last day of the 1<sup>st</sup> month of the grace period. We will not pay claims for services you received during the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> months, including ones we have prior authorized.

If you enrolled with HealthyCT but have not paid your initial premium, grace periods don't apply and you don't have coverage.

Your doctors will bill you directly for any services you receive after your last day of coverage. Please be aware that the cost could be higher than the discounted rate they charge HealthyCT members.

### **Grace Period Example**

Let's say you paid for February but you missed the March 1 due date for March coverage.

If you have a one-month grace period March 31 is your last day to pay your premium:

- We will process claims for services you receive during March and pay your doctor(s) based on your coverage.
- If you don't pay your premium by March 31, we will cancel your policy.
- To continue coverage after March 31, your April premium is due April 1.

If you have a three-month grace period you have until May 31 to pay your premium

- We will process claims for services you receive in March and pay your doctor(s) based on your coverage.
- We will not pay claims for services you receive during April or May, including ones that we have prior authorized. We will notify the doctor(s) who submitted the claims on your behalf.
- If we don't receive your payment in full for March, April and May by May 31, we will cancel your policy as of March 31.
- To continue coverage after May 31, your June premium is due June 1.

### **Other Penalties for Late Payments**

Unpaid insurance premiums and other health care bills can lower your credit score, making it difficult for you to get car loans, rent or buy a home, or qualify for other credit. Under the new health insurance laws, if you miss payments you also could:

- **Lose your coverage.** If this happens after March 31, 2014 you will not be able to enroll again until November 15, the next open enrollment period for individuals and families.
- **Face a federal government penalty of \$95 or 1% of your yearly household income** if you are uninsured for three months or more in a year.

If this applies to you, or you have any other questions or issues, please don't hesitate to call Member Services at **1-855-208-1641**.