

TSCPA Announces Private Health Insurance Exchange



The Texas Society of Certified Public Accountants has partnered with Pearl Insurance's Pearl Private Health Care Exchange to bring our members the new TSCPA Health Insurance Exchange. Members will be able to choose from different coverage levels and benefit choices to find a plan that's right for you.

To begin, users will login to the secure member portal to choose from a range of benefit choices at different levels allowing members to choose a plan that best fits their budget and health care needs easily. Four different coverage levels, bronze, silver, gold, or platinum, will offer ease in choosing your plan and all coverage comes from leading insurance companies in Texas such as Blue Cross Blue Shield, Humana, Cigna, and Aetna.

Further, all products offered by the TSCPA Health Insurance Exchange meet or exceed the U.S. Government guidelines of Minimum Essential Coverage's that U.S. citizens must purchase by March 31, 2014. If residents do not have health care coverage by this deadline, financial penalties will occur as outlined in the ACA-Individual Mandate.

To learn more about your options and to enroll in the TSCPA Health Insurance Exchange, visit tscpainsure.org or call **855.465.0203** to speak to an Exchange Counselor anytime Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. CST.

FAQ'S ABOUT THE TSCPA HEALTH INSURANCE EXCHANGE

▶ **What is the TSCPA Health Care Exchange?**

The TSCPA Exchange is a private exchange marketplace where members, as well as employers, can shop for competitively priced insurance coverage for themselves as well as their families.

▶ **What is the difference between a public and private exchange?**

A public exchange is set up through the federal or state government or a combination of both and will generally only offer healthcare and dental insurance plans. Private exchanges are set up by health insurance companies or brokerage firms and are not part of the Affordable Care Act. However, all plans offered under the TSCPA Health Care Exchange meet or exceed the U.S. Government guidelines of Minimum Essential Coverages that U.S. citizens must purchase by March 31, 2014.

▶ **What products are offered through the TSCPA Health Care Exchange?**

Medical insurance will be the main feature offered through the private exchange. However, other products like dental, vision, disability, and others will also be available.

▶ **I have insurance now through my employer, can I still get coverage from the exchange?**

Yes. Anyone can shop the public or private exchanges.

▶ **What is a subsidy and do I qualify?**

Subsidies are only offered on the public exchange to lower and middle-income people under age 65 who are not eligible for coverage through their employer, Medicaid, or Medicare.

▶ **Will I be turned down for a pre-existing health condition?**

Most coverage that begins January 1, 2014 or later cannot refuse to cover you or charge you a higher premium based on a pre-existing health condition. This remains true through the public as well as the private health care exchanges.

▶ **How do I get a quote and when can I begin the process?**

You can begin the process immediately by simply registering and begin shopping the marketplace. The earliest plans in the private exchange can be made effective is January 1, 2014.

▶ **What if I have additional questions?**

We have benefits counselors available to answer questions for you after you register and as you shop.

▶ **Is the private exchange available for out of state members?**

No, not at this time. Due to complexities and differences in health insurance providers and the public exchange rules in each state, the health insurance products offered in the TSCPA Insurance Exchange are only available to residents of Texas.

Plan Administrator:

 **PEARL INSURANCE®**
1200 E. Glen Avenue
Peoria Heights, IL 61616-5348