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Location change for June 2 Regence hearing

Hearing moved to PSU campus

(Salem) — To ensure adequate space, the Oregon Insurance Division has moved the Thursday, June 2, public hearing on a Regence BlueCross BlueShield of Oregon rate request to the Portland State University campus. The hearing will be from 4:30 to 7 p.m. at University Place, 310 SW Lincoln St. in Portland.

“We want to make sure we can accommodate everyone who wants to attend,” Insurance Division Administrator Teresa Miller said.

The proposed 22.1 percent rate increase would take effect Aug. 1 and would apply to more than 59,000 policyholders who have individual health plans. These are plans for people who don’t have coverage through an employer. This does not affect Regence’s Medicare plans.

The size of the proposed increase, the number of policyholders affected, and the recent history of rate and plan changes with this group of consumers prompted the division to set a public hearing.

The agenda:

- Regence will outline its proposal and explain the justification for the request. The company will also provide a written response to questions submitted in advance by OSPIRG, an advocacy group the division funds to comment on behalf of consumers.
- OSPIRG will testify.
- Public testimony will be accepted.

Consumers can visit the Insurance Division’s health insurance rate page to learn more about rate review and review documents connected with the Regence request: www.oregonhealthrates.org. People who can’t make the hearing can comment online through June 15. The rate page explains how to do this.

Once the comment period closes, the division will review all filing documents and public comments and make its decision. It can approve or deny the request or approve a lesser rate.

The division approves rates for individual plans purchased by the self-employed and others who are not covered through an employer, small employer (50 or fewer employees) plans, and portability coverage for some Oregonians who are leaving group coverage. About 12 percent of Oregonians have these types of plans.

Questions about rate review or other insurance issues? Call a consumer advocate at 1-888-877-4894 or, in Salem, 503-947-7984.

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