

HOW DO I EVALUATE MY HEALTH INSURANCE OPTIONS?

Now that Open Enrollment has started on November 1st, how do I evaluate my health insurance options?

No doubt, there are major changes taking effect with the carriers. Many people are losing their policies as of January 1, 2017. This is going to make choosing a plan much more complicated.

Now there are major variables that each person is going to have to be concerned with and there is no way to evaluate every plan without establishing what is most important. (These are in no particular order)

- Cost (Premium)
- Network (PPO, HMO, EPO, POS). In 2017, only Baylor, Scott & White will offer one PPO plan. Understand the differences between the types of networks. Health Insurance Network Acronyms are defined on my website www.filipinsurance.com.
- Doctors, Hospitals, Pharmacies
- How each plan works – The only way to figure this out is to read the Summary of Benefits. We can help with your questions.
- Deductibles, Maximum out of Pocket, Doctor office visits, Per Occurrence Charges
- Eligibility for Tax Credit/Subsidy – Enter your family size and family modified adjusted gross income estimated for 2017. It will calculate your estimated credit or subsidy you might qualify for. The premiums will be adjusted to show your net cost after the estimated tax credit.
- Plans available On Exchange (Marketplace) vs. Off Exchange (not all plans are offered On Exchange).
- Out of network coverage vs. no out of network coverage for the plan you are considering.
- HSA Qualified Plans vs. Traditional Plans

You can find the answers to all these variables by going to my website www.filipinsurance.com. On the home page, click on “Compare rates between health insurance companies (2017)”. You will be able to enter your ZIP code, birthdate etc. and get a listing of all plans from lowest premium to highest premium from Blue Cross Blue Shield and Baylor, Scott & White. You will be able to explore each of the variables listed above for each plan.

Once you have decided on the plan you want, you can apply on line from this site. You can apply for the plan of your choice whether it is On Exchange or Off Exchange.

Remember, if you happen to call healthcare.gov, you need to verify up front that an agent has been helping you. **Please make sure that they have on file Craig Richard Filip and NPN number 1166830.** If this is not done, we will not be able to access your policy information, regardless of carrier and will not be able to help you with either the carrier or healthcare.gov. We appreciate your business and it would be a privilege to continue to help you with your health insurance.

Call us at 972-771-6043 and we'll help you evaluate your options.