



Connecticut's Official Health Insurance Marketplace

**For Immediate Release
December 20, 2013**

**Contact: Kathleen Tallarita
Phone: 860.757.5339**

STATEMENT BY ACCESS HEALTH CT CEO KEVIN COUNIHAN

Hartford, CT - In response to last night's announcement from the Center for Medicare and Medicare Services (CMS) regarding providing individuals with cancelled policies access to catastrophic plans, Access Health CT will be implementing the following steps to comply with this new policy.

- **Current open enrollment deadlines will remain unchanged. In order to begin the year with coverage, individuals still need to complete their application by December 23rd, and payment must be received by Insurance Carrier on or before January 10, 2014.**
- **Individuals who had plans that were cancelled due to Affordable Care Act (ACA) non-compliance, will now be given an option to enroll in a catastrophic plan if they so choose. Many of the policies cancelled for non-compliance were high-deductible plans. The current catastrophic plans available offer the closest options for similar coverage.**
- **Should an individual decide to enroll in these plans, they will need to apply for a "hardship" exemption, and provide proof of dropped coverage. Currently, having a policy cancelled was not considered a qualifying "hardship", but will now be added to the list of qualifying events.**
- **Once an exemption is granted, individuals will then qualify for a 60-day "special enrollment" period where they can change from their current plan to a catastrophic plan option.**
- **Individuals must apply for this exemption status during the open enrollment period, which ends on March 31st.**

Access Health CT continues to be responsive to policy updates, and will be working quickly to institute these new provisions, including operational and information technology updates required to implement.

###

About Access Health CT

Access Health CT (also known as the Exchange) was created by the Connecticut Legislature in 2011 and is a quasi-public agency established to satisfy requirements of the federal Affordable Care Act. Its mission is to increase the number of insured residents in Connecticut, promote health, lower costs and eliminate health disparities. Its vision is to provide a simple online shopping and enrollment experience for state residents and small businesses, starting with open enrollment in October 2013.

Access Health CT will ensure that participating health plans meet certain standards, and will facilitate competition and choice by rating the quality of each plan. Individuals and families buying coverage through the Exchange may qualify for tax credits on premiums. The Exchange will also coordinate eligibility and enrollment with state Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Programs. More information is available at www.AccessHealthCT.com