

PRESS RELEASE

31st August 2010

BERMUDA HEALTH COUNCIL EXTENDS DEADLINE TO RESPOND TO PUBLIC CONSULTATION PAPER:

Enhancing the Regulatory Framework for Health Insurers

Report available at: http://www.bhec.bm/resources/reports_pub.html

(Hamilton, Bermuda 31st August 2010) – The Bermuda Health Council (BHeC) today announced that, at the request of key stakeholders, the consultation period for its proposals to enhance the regulatory framework for health insurers has been extended to 15th September 2010.

Public interest in the consultation paper has remained constant and to give greater opportunity to provide comments, the Bermuda Health Council agreed to extend the deadline to receive feedback.

The report is available at www.bhec.bm. The consultation period commenced 9th July 2010. All feedback must be submitted in writing by 15th September 2010.

The consultation paper identifies key demographic, economic, and health trends that highlight the need to enhance the current regulatory framework for health insurers in order to ensure Bermuda's health system is sustainable. Prominent among the trends is the 8.8% annual growth in health system expenditure since 2000 and the growing financial burden this presents to the insured public.

The consultation paper explains the three core goals of the proposals:

1. To protect the public through ensuring a sound minimum package, contractual transparency and financial solvency of insurers.
2. To promote equity by ensuring the minimum package is available to everyone at an affordable price, without discrimination.
3. To promote cost-efficiency by ensuring accurate and prompt reimbursement of healthcare providers.



Health insurers, employers, healthcare providers, and the public are invited to provide feedback on the proposed reforms to Mr. Dane K Commissioning, Director of Health System Regulation by 15th September 2010. All feedback must be in writing and can be emailed to dkcommissioning@bhec.bm or mailed to:

Bermuda Health Council
PO Box HM 3381
Hamilton HM PX
Bermuda

Dr. Jennifer Attride-Stirling, Chief Executive Officer of the Bermuda Health Council, commented: “We are very satisfied with the level of interest in the proposals from the community. Members of the public and health professionals have called and written with their views and insurers have been engaged with us in discussions. We welcome more feedback from all stakeholders to ensure consideration of the widest range of views and, following requests for more time, have deemed it imperative to give greater opportunity to respond”.

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About Bermuda Health Council

Established in January 2006, the Bermuda Health Council is tasked with overseeing Bermuda’s healthcare system to ensure its sustainability. Staffed by a team of eight professionals with over 100 years of experience in administration, healthcare and finance, the Health Council draws upon the expertise and experience of its 15 Council members to regulate, coordinate and enhance the delivery of health services in Bermuda.

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