



PRESS RELEASE

The Bermuda Health Council to publish non-compliance with Health Insurance Act 1970

(Hamilton, Bermuda 28th June 2015) – Following the passage of the Health Insurance Amendment Act 2015, the Bermuda Health Council wishes to advise the public that from 3rd July 2015, employers who could not be verified to have an active health insurance policy will be published on its website.

The Health Insurance Act 1970 (HIA) requires employers to maintain an active health insurance policy for all employees and their non-employed spouse. The Health Council is tasked with ensuring that employers comply with the law. To do this, the Health Council monitors employers' insurance through reports from the public, insurers and healthcare providers.

Many employees are unaware of changes to their health insurance policy status. An individual may find out that their policy is inactive only when they go to receive medical attention. To ensure employees can be aware of their policy status, the Health Insurance Amendment Act 2015 authorizes the Health Council to post on its website the names of businesses that do not have an active health insurance policy in place.

The list will be updated in real-time based on information confirmed with local health insurers. Employers are contacted by a variety of means, and failing a response, they are issued a warning giving 7 days to provide proof of an active policy. Their names will remain on the website until proof of an active policy is provided by the employer and verified by the insurer.

Since the amendment came into effect, the Bermuda Health Council has written to over 15 employers. The first list will be published on 3rd July 2015.

CEO of the Health Council, Dr Jennifer Attride-Stirling said, "Every month we follow up with an average of 80 employers reported to us. We follow up on all cases and most employers are very cooperative in resolving the problem. However, about a quarter don't respond to follow-up and require more intensive investigation. This is resource-intensive and leaves employees uninsured, often despite having premiums deducted from their pay. We hope the numerous efforts to reach employers to advise them of their status and the potential consequences will help to stress the importance of maintaining their insurance cover in line with the law. We believe this is an important deterrent measure, and hope never to see a name published."

The list of non-complaint employers will be found at:

www.bhec.bm/health-insurance-act-1970/health-insurance-act-1970/

Persons wishing to query the above listing may do so directly via phone, email, our website, in person or in writing to:

Bermuda Health Council

Sterling House (3rd Fl), 16 Wesley Street,
Hamilton HM 11

Phone: 441-292-6420

Fax: 441-292-8067

Email: healthcouncil@bhec.bm | Website: www.bhec.bm

Media Contact:

Jennifer Attride-Stirling, CEO

Telephone: 292-6420

Email: attridestirling@bhec.bm

About Bermuda Health Council

Established in January 2006, the Bermuda Health Council (Health Council) is tasked with regulating, coordinating and enhancing the provision of health services in Bermuda. Led by a Board representing a broad range of sectors in Bermuda's community, and staffed by a team of committed professionals, the Bermuda Health Council works with health system stakeholders towards achieving a quality, equitable and sustainable health system.