



## ANTHEM BLUE CROSS RAISES PREMIUMS!!!

Recent news reports Anthem Blue Cross to raise premiums upwards of **39%**. The position taken will negatively affect how we view Anthem Blue Cross, our health-care options and insurance. Please read and review the headlines added below:

### PRESS RELEASE FROM U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES:

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Kathleen Sebelius today sent a letter to Anthem Blue Cross and called on the company to publicly justify its decision to raise premiums for its California customers by as much as **39 percent**. In her letter, Sebelius notes that the parent company of Anthem Blue Cross, WellPoint Incorporated earned \$2.7 billion in the last quarter of 2009. Here's the link to the press release: [Sebelius Calls on Anthem Blue Cross to Publicly Justify 39 Percent Premium Increase](#)

### PRESS RELEASE FROM THE LOS ANGELES TIMES:

**Anthem Blue Cross dramatically raising rates for Californians with individual health policies.** Policyholders are incensed over rate hikes of as much as 39%, which they say come on top of similar increases last year. State insurance regulators say they'll investigate.

*February 04, 2010* | By Duke Helfand: California's largest for-profit health insurer is moving to dramatically raise rates for customers with individual policies, setting off a furor among policyholders and prompting state insurance regulators to investigate.

Anthem Blue Cross is telling many of its approximately 800,000 customers who buy individual coverage -- people not covered by group rates -- that its prices will go up March 1 and may be adjusted "more frequently" than its typical yearly increases. ([click to be redirected to the full LA Times Article](#))

### PRESS RELEASE FROM THE STATE COMMISSIONERS OFFICE:

**Insurance Commissioner Poizner Calls Anthem Blue Cross Health Insurance Rate Hikes Alarming.** Reminds Californians to Shop Around, Compare Health Insurance Options.

*For Release: Feb, 5, 2010:* California Insurance Commissioner Steve Poizner today issued the following statement regarding Anthem Blue Cross rate increases:

"I'm alarmed by the Anthem Blue Cross health insurance rate hikes, especially in a time when the recession has forced so many people into the individual health insurance market," said Commissioner Poizner. "State law requires that insurers spend at least 70 cents of every dollar of premium on medical care. I have instructed my department to hire an outside actuary to examine their rates line by line to ensure they are complying with this state law. If we find that their rates are excessive, I will use the full power of my office to bring these rates down.

Commissioner Poizner also reminded Californians who have to purchase individual health insurance that there are dozens of insurance companies to choose from. ([click to be redirected to the Commissioner's full commentary](#))

## MEDICARE THERAPY CAP NEWS: AUDIO PODCAST

(click to listen: courtesy American Physical Therapy Association 2010)



### WHAT CAN YOU DO TO EXTEND YOUR THERAPY CAP COVERAGE?:

On February 4, Senator John Ensign (R-NV) introduced two pieces of legislation that would extend the therapy cap exceptions process for one year (S. 2987) and two years (S. 2988). Please take action NOW to ask your Senators to cosponsor this legislation immediately.

Personalizing your message is the most effective way to make an impact on your Senators. When using [APTA's Legislative Action Center](#) to send your message, please remember to PERSONALIZE any correspondence to your Senators by writing a brief paragraph about how the Medicare therapy cap will affect your patients.

Reach out to your patients and encourage them to contact Congress as well. APTA's website can provide information for patients interested in contacting their members through the [Patient Action Center](#). Thank you for your help.