

Health Care Reform



What you need to know about the Affordable Care Act!

The Affordable Care Act has brought many changes to the way Americans purchase and use health insurance. Below are some important highlights of changes that may affect you and your family:

THE INDIVIDUAL MANDATE:

The requirement for an individual to have health insurance



- Beginning **January 1, 2014**, every American citizen must purchase and maintain health insurance or face penalties imposed by the IRS. This is what is referred to as the "Individual Mandate."
- This requirement applies to **everyone**, including all dependents, unless they are excluded by law.
- **Your employer sponsored plan satisfies this requirement.**

For more information visit:
www.healthcare.gov
www.wahbexchange.org

HEALTH INSURANCE EXCHANGES:

Online marketplaces to buy individual health insurance



- Each state is creating its own online marketplace, called an "exchange," where individuals can purchase health insurance.
- Washington State's exchange is called the **Washington Healthplanfinder.**
- Exchanges are primarily targeted towards individuals who are **not offered health insurance through their employer**, but you are likely to hear about them over the next several months.
- An exchange may be a helpful option when shopping for coverage for **spouses or dependents.**