

**STATE OF CONNECTICUT**  
*INSURANCE DEPARTMENT*

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In The Matter or :  
UNITED HEALTHCARE : Docket No. LH 15-128  
INSURANCE COMPANY :  
Medicare Supplement Insurance :  
----- X

**ORDER**

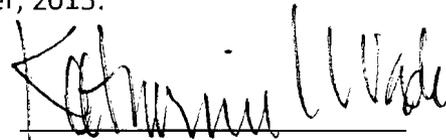
I, Katharine L Wade, Commissioner of the State of Connecticut, having read the record, do hereby adopt the findings and recommendations of Danny K. Albert, Hearing Officer in the above matter and issue the following order, to wit:

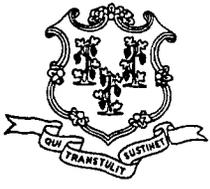
United Healthcare Insurance Company’s 2016 calendar year rate filing for its Standardized Medicare supplement insurance plans (Pre-MIPPA plans sold before June 1, 2010) and (MIPPA plans sold on or after June 1, 2010) were reviewed. The following rate increases are approved.

<u>Plan(s)</u>	<u>Rate Increase(s)</u>
L	5.0%
N	7.5%

The rate changes approved herein for United HealthCare Insurance Company’s Pre-MIPPA and MIPPA (Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act of 2008) Standardized Medicare supplement insurance plans are reasonable in relation to the benefits, estimated claim costs and anticipated loss ratios the company expects to realize on its Medicare supplement business.

Dated at Hartford, Connecticut, this 13th day of November, 2015.

  
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Katharine L Wade  
Commissioner



# STATE OF CONNECTICUT

## INSURANCE DEPARTMENT

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### PROPOSED FINAL DECISION

#### 1. INTRODUCTION

The Insurance Commissioner of the State of Connecticut is empowered to review rates charged for individual and group Medicare supplement policies sold to any resident of this State who is eligible for Medicare. The source for this regulatory authority is contained in Chapter 700c and Section 38a-495a of the Connecticut General Statutes.

After due notice, a hearing was held at the Insurance Department in Hartford on October 29, 2015 to consider whether or not the rate increase requested by United Healthcare Insurance Company on its individual Standardized Medicare supplement business should be approved.

No members from the general public attended the hearing.

One company representative participated in the hearing by phone.

The hearing was conducted in accordance with the requirements of Section 38a-474, Connecticut General Statutes, the Uniform Administrative Procedures Act, Chapter 54 of Section 38a-8-1 et seq. of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies.

A Medicare supplement (or Medigap) policy is a private health insurance policy sold on an individual or group basis, which provides benefits that are additional to the benefits provided by Medicare. For many years Medicare supplement policies have been highly regulated under both state and federal law to protect the interests of persons eligible for Medicare who depend on these policies to provide additional coverage for the costs of health care.

Effective December 1, 2005, Connecticut amended its program of standardized Medicare supplement policies in accordance with Section 38a-496a of the Connecticut General Statutes,

and Sections 38a-495a-1 through 38a-495a-21 of the Regulations of Connecticut Agencies. This program, which conforms to federal requirements, provides that all “core” package of benefits known as Plan A. Insurers may also offer any one or more of eleven other plans (Plans B through N).

Effective January 1, 2006, in accordance with Section 38a-495c of the Connecticut General Statutes (as amended by Public Act 05-20) premiums for all Medicare supplement policies in the state must use community rating. Rates for Plans A through N must be computed without regard to age, gender, previous claims history or the medical condition of any person covered by a Medicare supplement policy or certificate.

The statute provides that coverage under Plans A through N may not be denied on the basis of age, gender, previous claims history or the medical condition of any covered person. Insurers may exclude benefits for losses incurred within six months from the effective date of coverage based on a pre-existing condition.

Effective October 1, 1998, carriers that offer Plan B or Plan C must make these plans as well as Plan A, available to all persons eligible for Medicare by reason of disability.

Insurers must also make the necessary arrangements to receive notice of all claims paid by Medicare for their insureds so that supplement benefits can be computed and paid without requiring insureds to file claim forms for such benefits. This process of direct notice and automatic claims payment is commonly referred to as “piggybacking” or “crossover”.

Sections 38a-495 and 38a-522 of the Connecticut General Statutes, and Section 38a-495a-10 of the Regulations of Connecticut Agencies, state that individual and group Medicare supplement policies must have anticipated loss ratios of 65% and 75%, respectively. Under Sections 38a-495-7 and 38a-495a-10 of the Regulations of Connecticut Agencies, filings for rate increases must demonstrate that actual and expected losses in relation to premiums meet these standards, and anticipated loss ratios for the entire future period for which the requested premiums are calculated to provide coverage must be expected to equal or exceed the appropriate loss ratio standard.

Section 38a-473 of the Connecticut General Statutes provides that no insurer may incorporate in its rates for Medicare supplement policies factors for expenses that exceed 150% of the average expense ratio for that insurer’s entire written premium for all lines of health insurance for the previous calendar year.

## II. **FINDING OF FACT**

After reviewing the exhibits entered into the record of this proceeding, and utilizing the experience, technical competence and specialized knowledge of the Insurance Department, the undersigned makes the following findings of fact:

General

UnitedHealthcare was granted rate increases on its Connecticut Medicare Supplement AARP block of business for 2015. This is a refilling of a rate increase request for Plans L and N for 2016:

<u>Plan</u>	<u>Proposed</u>	<u>2015 Monthly</u>	<u>Diff.</u>
	<u>2016 Monthly</u>	<u>Rate</u>	<u>(%)</u>
L	\$121.75	\$116.00	5.0%
N	\$158.00	\$147.00	7.5%

UnitedHealthcare calculated the Medicare Part A trend as follows:

	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>
Medicare Part A Deductible	\$1,184	\$1,216	\$1,260	\$1,300
% Change in Part A Deductible	2.4%	2.7%	3.6%	3.2%
<u>Utilization Trend</u>	<u>-3.9%</u>	<u>- 1.1%</u>	<u>-2.3%</u>	<u>-2.6%</u>
Composite Trend	-1.6%	1.5%	1.3%	0.5%

UnitedHealthcare's standardized plans prior to June 1, 2010 cover approximately 47,243, with an additional 44,744 covered under the new MIPPA plans. The standardized MIPPA plans are available on a group basis under a group policy issued to the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP).

UnitedHealthcare certified that the expense factors, within the proposed rates, are in compliance with section 38a-473, C.G.S.

The Connecticut loss ratios for the standardized block of business are as follows:

<u>Plan</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>
L	78.1%	70.1%	80.4%
<u>N</u>	<u>64.9%</u>	<u>71.2%</u>	<u>77.0%</u>
Total	78.2%	78.6%	81.2%

Compliance with Reg. 38a-474 (submission and review of rates for Medicare supplement)

UnitedHealthcare's 2014 Medicare supplement rate filing proposals are in compliance with the requirements of regulation 38a-474 as it applies to the contents of the rate submission as well as the actuarial memorandums.

It has been confirmed that UnitedHealthcare makes standardized Plans A, B and C available to persons eligible for Medicare by reason of a disability only if they are members of AARP, and that UnitedHealthcare is in compliance with the automatic claim processing system (i.e., piggybacking).

III. RECOMMENDATION

Standardized Plans Sold Prior to June 1, 2010 and MIPPA Plans Sold after June 1, 2010

The undersigned recommends approval of the following rate increases for 2016:

<u>Plan</u>	<u>Increase</u>
L	5.0%
N	7.5%

For Plans L and N, the rate change request is reasonable in relationship to the benefits, estimated claim costs and the anticipated loss ratios the company expects to realize on this business.

Dated at Hartford, Connecticut, this 13<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2015.

  
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Danny K. Albert  
Hearing Officer