

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
INSURANCE DEPARTMENT

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In The Matter or :
Omaha Insurance Company : **Docket No. LH 16-29**
Medicare Supplement Insurance :
-----X

ORDER

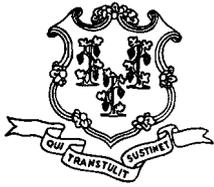
I, Katharine L Wade, Commissioner of the State of Connecticut, having read the record, do hereby adopt the findings and recommendations of Danny K. Albert, Hearing Officer in the above matter and issue the following order, to wit:

The Medicare supplement rate increase request submitted by Omaha Insurance Company for its individual Standardized Medicare supplement insurance policy forms NM20 (Plan A), NM23 (Plan F) and NM24 (Plan G) is approved as submitted.

The rate increase approved herein is reasonable in relation to the benefits, estimated claim costs and anticipated loss ratios expected to be realized by Omaha Insurance Company on this block of Medicare supplement insurance business.

Dated at Hartford, Connecticut this 16st day of May, 2016.

Katharine L Wade
Commissioner



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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 April 21, 2016, to consider whether or not the rate increase requested by Omaha Insurance Company on its individual Standardized Medicare supplement insurance business should be approved.

No members from the general public attended the hearing.

No company representatives from Omaha Insurance Company attended the hearing.

The hearing was conducted in accordance with the requirements of Section 38a-474, Connecticut General Statutes, the Uniform Administrative Procedures Act, Chapter 54 of the Connecticut General Statutes, and the Insurance Department Rules of Practice, 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 that provides benefits that are in addition 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-495a 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 insurers offering Medicare supplement policies for sale in the state must offer a basic “core” package of benefits known as Plan A. Insurers may also offer any one or more of eleven other plans (Plans B through N). No other Medicare supplement policies may be sold in Connecticut.

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(s) B and/or C in the Connecticut insurance marketplace must also make the plans (in addition to Plan A) available to 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 supplemental 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. Pursuant to 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. Additionally, the 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:

1. Omaha Insurance Company has requested the approval of a 12.0% rate increase for standardized Plans A, F and G.
2. The following are estimated 9/30/2015 in-force counts in Connecticut and on a nationwide basis:

<u>Plan</u>	<u>Connecticut</u>	<u>Nationwide</u>
A	4	603
F	116	83,548
G	207	150,425
Total	327	234,576

3. The most recent rate increase approved was 9.0% for all three plans, effective 7/1/2015.
4. The policy forms included in this filing are issued via both agent solicitation and direct response.
5. There is no pre-existing condition exclusion clause on these plans.
6. Omaha Insurance Company certified that their expense factors are in compliance with section 38a-473, C.G.S.
7. Omaha Insurance Company has conformed to subsection (e) of section 38a-495c, C.G.S. regarding the automatic processing of Part A and B claims.
8. The proposed rates are designed to satisfy the Connecticut regulatory loss ratio of 65%.
9. Below are the estimated loss ratios in Connecticut for 2014, 2015 and from inception-to-date:

<u>Plan</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>Inception-to-date</u>
A	151.1%	145.4%	136.3%
F	104.0%	70.5%	96.9%
G	88.4%	69.6%	77.0%
Total	96.9%	71.4%	87.0%

11. Below are the estimated loss ratios on a nationwide basis for 2014, 2015 and from inception-to-date:

<u>Plan</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>Inception-to-date</u>
A	105.3%	105.7%	115.9%
F	78.3%	84.6%	81.5%
G	70.5%	79.7%	75.6%

12. Trend of 8.0% was used to project future claims for all plans.
13. Omaha Insurance Company's 2016 Medicare supplement rate filing proposal is in compliance with the requirements of regulation 38a-474 as it applies to the contents of the rate submission as well as the actuarial memorandum.

III. RECOMMENDATION

The undersigned recommends that the rate increase requests for Plans A, F and G be approved as submitted. The rate change is reasonable in relationship to the benefits, estimated claim costs and the anticipated loss ratio the company expects to realize on this business.

Dated at Hartford, Connecticut, this 16th day of May, 2016.


Danny K. Albert
Hearing Officer