



# The Orthodox HealthPlan

April 2, 2014  
Nikitas the Confessor

Dear Orthodox Health Plan Participant,

On behalf of the Orthodox Health Plan Benefits Committee, we pray that this journey of Holy Lent has been a healthy and blessed spiritual source of benefit. Please know that the well-being of our participants continues to be at the core of the stewardship of this health insurance program.

Once again it is the time of renewal for our health insurance premiums. As you hear daily in the media, health care costs continue to escalate. In addition, the Affordable Care Act, the Federal Government's newly instituted health insurance program, has contributed to the increase of the cost of our premiums in the amount of over a half million dollars going towards it as a tax. We also have experienced an extremely high utilization with fifty-eight claims in excess of \$25,000, adding up to over three million dollars in claims, which is one fourth of the total claims for the year.

The initial proposal from Aetna was over a twenty-three percent increase. We looked at other insurance companies for their offerings and with that we were able to negotiate further with Aetna. We were also able to further reduce the premium using monies from the "Premium Stabilization Reserve" (which is reserved for use as a subsidy for premium reduction). In addition an increase made to the total deductible from \$1,000 to \$1,500 helped to lower the premium increase.

As a result of all of these factors, as of May 1, 2013, the new monthly premium for a single member will be \$1,325 and for a family will be \$2,415. Please keep in mind that a large part of the increase is due to the Affordable Care Act which is beyond our control.

Please know that your Committee has done whatever possible to reduce the rates. We are pleased to share with you that 98% of our claims are in network. Attached you will find a summary of the benefit changes for the new plan year. We thank each of the members of the Orthodox Health Plan Committee along with our administrator and consultant for their dedicated service.

We offer our prayers to each of you and your beloved families for a year of good health both physically and spiritually. In joyful expectation of Holy Pascha, I am,

In Christ's Service,

Fr. Constantine L. Sitaras, Chairman  
Joint Orthodox Health Plans Committee