

The Metropolitan Life Insurance Company (the Company) requested a 39% increase on this block of group long-term care insurance forms. As the forms were issued in Virginia from 1998 through 9/30/2003, the experience was reviewed based on the rules in effect at the time of issue. For policies issued prior to October 1, 2003, they were reviewed according to the requirements of 14VAC5-200-150 (pre-rate stability).

The Bureau of Insurance's (the Bureau) consulting actuary reviewed the filing and indicated that the rate increase will result in future and lifetime loss ratios more than the original target for the pre-rate stability block. Therefore, the company was advised that the Bureau would approve the rate increase for the pre-rate stability block but reduce the requested increase from 45% to 39% for compliance with the applicable regulations. The Company modified the filing accordingly.

This increase will impact approximately 343 insureds in Virginia and the Company advised that they do not intend to increase rates further on this block unless the actual experience is worse than projected. The primary reasons for the rate increase are that policyholders are living longer and keeping their policies in force longer, which has resulted in more claims being filed than the Company anticipated when the policy was originally priced. The Company determined that a premium increase is necessary to reflect that future claims are expected to be significantly higher on these policies than originally expected or priced and to ensure that sufficient funds are available to pay claims.

The Company is offering all policyholders options to reduce the premium increase by reducing their coverage. These reductions could be in the form of lower daily benefits, a shorter benefit period, a longer elimination period, the termination of riders or any combination of these reductions, or a paid-up policy equal to the sum of premiums paid. Specific options are included in the letter sent to all policyholders notifying them of the rate increase or can be discussed with the company by calling its customer service department.

The filing can be reviewed on the Bureau's webpage under the Rate/Policy Form Search at:
<http://www.scc.virginia.gov/boi/SERFFInquiry/default.asp>.