

PART II CONSUMER JUSTIFICATION NARRATIVE BLUE CROSS BLUE SHIELD OF WYOMING INDIVIDUAL MARKET RATES EFFECTIVE 1/1/2026

Blue Cross Blue Shield of Wyoming (BCBSWY) has offered comprehensive and fully insured coverage to members in the Individual ACA market since 2014. BCBSWY is filing a rate increase for 2026 products. All plans will be offered statewide; plans will be offered either on or off the Federally Facilitated Marketplace in Wyoming.

The products associated with this filing will cover a wide range of benefits, including all Essential Health Benefits (EHBs) required under the ACA. Some plans will have access to pediatric dental benefits. Stand-alone pediatric dental plans are available to satisfy the EHB requirements. All plans will utilize a PPO network. BCBSWY will offer plans at the bronze, silver, and gold metallic levels. Cost share reduction plans will be offered for those eligible. Services will be subject to deductibles, copays, and coinsurance; member cost-sharing will be limited to out-of-pocket maximums (OOPMs). A range of cost-sharing options will be provided to consumers, including deductible options ranging from \$0 to \$10,600, member coinsurance options ranging from 0% to 50%, and OOPM options ranging from \$1,450 to \$10,600 for single coverage. Some plans will feature copays for physician services and prescription drug fills.

The average rate change for individuals renewing in 2026 is 18.0%, with the minimum and maximum rate changes equal to 12.7% and 21.2%, respectively. The proposed rate changes vary by plan due to changes in the paid to allowed ratios underlying the actuarial value and cost sharing components of the Plan Adjusted Index Rates. The paid to allowed ratios for all plans were updated to reflect the benefits to be offered in 2026 and the anticipated claim costs associated with the projected 2026 BCBSWY Individual ACA population.

The primary drivers of the average rate change are summarized below:

- Higher than expected claims net of risk adjustment in the experience period
- One year of claims trend relative to 2025;
- An increase in the claims trend assumption due to an increase in observed historical claims trend;
- The expectation that the enhanced premium tax credits (originally implemented under the America Rescue Plan Act and subsequently extended under the Inflation Reduction Act) will expire at the end of 2025

The rate change is estimated to impact approximately 26,000 members.