

Sample article for organizations to use to reach customers (768 word count)

Customize and post the following article on your websites and/or use in other communication vehicles to help your customers understand the Individual Shared Responsibility provision.

Facts about the Individual Shared Responsibility provision for individuals and families

Almost everyone will need to do something new when they file their tax return this year.

The Individual Shared Responsibility provision, which is an important part of the Affordable Care Act, calls for taxpayers to have qualifying health care coverage, qualify for a health coverage exemption or make a payment.

Reporting health care coverage

Qualifying coverage — also called minimum essential coverage — includes most employer-sponsored coverage, coverage through most government-sponsored programs like Medicare, Medicaid and CHIP, and coverage purchased through the [Health Insurance Marketplace](#).

If you and everyone else on your tax return had qualifying health care coverage, you will simply check a box to report that coverage when filing your return in 2015. For each month in 2014 that anyone on your return does not have qualifying health care coverage or qualify for a health coverage exemption, you will need to make an individual shared responsibility payment.

Everyone on your return needs to maintain their qualifying health care coverage in 2015.

Claiming a health coverage exemption

You may qualify for a health coverage [exemption](#) if you meet one of the following:

- You did not have access to coverage that is considered affordable because the minimum amount you must pay for the annual premiums is more than eight percent of your household income,
- You had a gap without coverage of less than three months, or
- You qualify for one of several other [exemptions](#), including having a hardship that prevented you from obtaining coverage or you were a member of a group explicitly exempt from the health coverage requirement.

How you obtain a health coverage exemption depends upon the type of exemption. You must apply for some exemptions through the Marketplace in the area where you live. Other exemptions are claimed only when filing an income tax return. Finally, some exemptions may be granted by the Marketplace or claimed when filing a tax return.

Unless you must obtain your health coverage exemption through the Marketplace, you can claim the exemption on your 2014 income tax return filed in 2015. You will use [Form 8965](#), Health Coverage Exemptions, to report a coverage exemption granted by the Marketplace or to claim a coverage exemption on your tax return.

Making an Individual Shared Responsibility payment

If anyone on your tax return does not have qualifying health care coverage for each month of the year and does not qualify for an exemption, you must make an individual shared responsibility payment when filing your federal income tax return in 2015.

In general, the annual payment amount is the greater of:

- One percent of your household income above the filing threshold for your filing status (e.g., unmarried, married filing jointly, etc.), or
- \$95 per person without coverage or an exemption (\$47.50 per individual under age 18), but limited to a family maximum of \$285.

You will owe 1/12 of the annual payment for each month you or another person on your tax return doesn't have either qualifying health care coverage or a coverage exemption. Your individual shared responsibility payment cannot exceed the national average premium for a bronze-level health plan available through the Marketplace which, for 2014, is \$204 per month per person.

The instructions for Form 8965 provide the information you will use to calculate the payment that will be reported on your federal income tax return.

You can electronically file Form 8965. Filing electronically is the best way to file a complete and accurate return. By electronically filing your tax return, many common errors may be avoided or corrected by the computer software. Depending on your income, you may even qualify to [e-file](#) for free by using [Free File](#) tax software.

[IRS.gov](#) has up-to-date information that can help you right away. This includes easy-to-use tools to help answer tax questions, such as, the [Interactive Tax Assistant](#) or the [IRS Tax Map](#), each designed to help find answers to tax questions quickly and easily.

More information about the Individual Shared Responsibility provision can be found in [Publication 5187](#), The Health Care Law: What's New for Individuals & Families or at [IRS.gov/aca](#).

Note to editor:

On Twitter? Send a tweet to your followers:

- New [#IRS](#) e-publication 5187 explains the provisions of the [#healthcare](#) law for individuals and families [#ACA](#) <http://go.usa.gov/F7xG>
- Updated [#healthcare](#) marketplace contact information and what it means for your [#taxes](#) in 2014 and 2015 <http://go.usa.gov/HQsG>