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## The New Health Care Law And You

The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (“ACA”) was passed in March 2010. Here are some highlights of what it means for graduating seniors:

### Benefits Available Now

- » **Dependent Coverage Up to 26:** You can stay covered on a parent’s insurance plan until you turn 26.
- » **New Health Care Rights and Protections:** New plans must provide free preventive care without co-pays or coinsurance, including many screenings and immunizations. Plans also cannot stop covering you if you have high medical costs over the course of your lifetime, and plans must spend at least 80 percent of your premium dollars on care.
- » **Coverage for Uninsured Young Adults with Pre-existing Conditions:** “Pre-existing Condition Insurance Plans” have been set up to provide a coverage option for the nearly 16 percent of young adults with a pre-existing condition who may have been denied coverage. Starting in 2014 (and starting now for those under 19), insurers cannot refuse to cover you if you are sick.

### Benefits Available after 2014

- » **Health Insurance Exchanges that Offer More Options:** Imagine Orbitz or Expedia for health insurance. Exchanges are statewide, online marketplaces to help people find and buy the best health plan at the best price. These marketplaces start in 2014 and will boost competition.
- » **Help with Premiums:** Millions of Americans will be able to get tax credits in 2014 to help pay for the cost of buying insurance. You will qualify if 1) you don’t have an affordable offer of job-based coverage, and 2) you earn less than about \$44,000 a year (or more if you have dependents).
- » **Medicaid Expansion:** Medicaid, a state and federal coverage program for low-income Americans, will expand in 2014 to cover everyone earning less than about \$15,000 a year (or more for people with dependents). This could provide coverage to 8 million currently uninsured young adults. Medicaid coverage is often limited to those with children; this requirement will be eliminated in 2014. Until then, check the Medicaid rules in your state to see if you qualify and download the **“Health Insurance Options When You’re Out of School”** flyer.
- » **Individual Responsibility:** Starting in 2014, every American will have the personal responsibility to purchase insurance, although there will be exemptions if insurance is too expensive. While it does mean that you will have to take action and get covered, it also means that everyone chips in, so you don’t have to pay for those who don’t buy insurance but get care anyway. Employers will also be required to do their share to provide coverage to workers.

Have questions? Email us at [Questions@YoungInvincibles.org](mailto:Questions@YoungInvincibles.org)

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