

STM Ruling Reversed Effective October 1



[David Kettig](#), President of The IHC Group, and [Jan Dubauskas](#), General Counsel for [Health eDeals](#) were pleased to participate in a call with Deputy Secretary, Eric Hargan of the Department of Health and Human Services (“HHS”) recently discussing the final rule on short-term, limited-duration insurance. In the call, Mr. Hargan noted that ACA plans have more than doubled in premium since 2013 and unsubsidized consumers are unable to afford the plans. He noted that according to the 2016 US Census Bureau data, over 28 million people remain uninsured. HHS expects this final rule will provide coverage to 1-2 million consumers in the US.

STM Ruling Update

According to the final rule issued, short-term plans may be made available for up to 364 days and may be renewed for a maximum of 36 months, subject to state law. Mr. Hargan further explained that restoring short-term plans to 364 days is designed to protect consumers who experience on-going medical conditions that require treatment for more than 90 days. In addition, he said that the [final rule](#) provides stronger protections for consumers by including more disclosures about the plans.

What does this mean for IHC?

IHC is an industry leader in short-term medical, hospital indemnity and other specialty health plans and continues to innovate and bring new products to the market. With the increased duration, we expect [Fusion](#), a product that combines the best of catastrophic short term medical and first-dollar hospital indemnity policies to be very attractive to consumers. [Connect Plus](#), a first-of-its-kind short-term medical plan with up to \$25,000 coverage for certain pre-existing conditions will provide peace of mind to consumers who may have some pre-existing conditions.

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About The IHC Group

Independence Holding Company (NYSE: IHC), formed in 1980, is a holding company that is principally engaged in underwriting, administering and/or distributing group and individual specialty benefit products, including disability, supplemental health, pet, and group life insurance through its subsidiaries (Independence Holding Company and its subsidiaries collectively referred to as “The IHC Group”). The IHC Group consists of three insurance companies (Standard Security Life Insurance Company of New York, Madison National Life Insurance Company, Inc. and Independence American Insurance Company), and IHC Specialty Benefits, Inc., a technology-driven full-service marketing and distribution company that focuses on small employer and individual consumer products through general agents, telebrokerage, call centers, advisors, private label arrangements, independent agents, and through the following brands: [www.HealthDeals.com](#); [Health eDeals Advisors](#); [Aspira A Mas](#); [www.PetPartners.com](#); and [www.PetPlace.com](#).