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**NEW YORK HEALTH PLAN ASSOCIATION ON HEALTH CARE COSTS:  
*Issue Brief Examines Cost Drivers Impacting Health Insurance Premiums***

The New York Health Plan Association (HPA) today issued *Health Insurance 101: Understanding Health Care Premiums*, a policy brief that examines the drivers of rising health care costs affecting health insurance premiums. The key factors examined include:

- High and ever escalating prices that pharmaceutical companies are charging for **prescription drugs**;
- Increases in the prices charged by **hospitals, physicians and other providers**;
- The number of **mandated benefits**, with New York requiring every health insurance policy to include or “make available” coverage for more than three dozen specific treatments or services; and
- **Taxes on health insurance**, which add over \$6.5 billion annually to the cost of health insurance, increasing the annual premium for the average family buying a policy in New York by more than \$1,000.

“Health insurance premiums reflect the high cost of health care in this state and every New Yorker should have access to high-quality, affordable care,” said Eric Linzer, President and CEO of HPA. “Increases in the prices that hospitals, providers and drug companies charge, coupled with mandated benefits and taxes on insurance, are the major contributors driving the cost of coverage. The 2024 rates health plans recently submitted to the state reflect those factors and the final approved premiums should fully recognize the growth in health care costs.”

The issue brief is available on the HPA website at: <https://nyhpa.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/Health-Insurance-101-06-22-23.pdf>

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*The New York Health Plan Association represents 27 managed care health plans that provide comprehensive health care services to more than 8 million New Yorkers.*