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## **CHRISTUS HEALTH PLAN LOSES QUALIFIED HEALTH PLAN STATUS** *Inability to Fulfill Compliance Requirements Bars Individual Market Participation*

**Santa Fe, NM** – Under the Affordable Care Act, New Mexico’s Office of Superintendent of Insurance (“OSI”) must certify health insurance plans that health insurance carriers wish to offer as qualified health plans (“QHPs”) prior to their sale to consumers in New Mexico’s individual and small-group markets. To be certified as a QHP, a health insurance carrier must submit regulatory filings evidencing compliance with state and federal consumer protection laws and coverage mandates. OSI’s regulatory compliance staff reviews these filings each year and works with carriers to resolve compliance gaps before the QHP certification deadline for the upcoming plan year. This year, the qualified health plan certification deadline was August 16, 2019.

“CHRISTUS Health Plan failed to achieve compliance with requirements for certification as a qualified health plan,” announced New Mexico Superintendent of Insurance John G. Franchini, on Monday, August 19<sup>th</sup>. “The term ‘qualified health plan’ signifies a high standard. It indicates that a health insurance plan is compliant with federal and state requirements and is therefore eligible to participate on the New Mexico health insurance exchange. Four other carriers in the state were able to meet the requirements, and we are disappointed that this year, CHRISTUS was not.” said Superintendent Franchini. The Superintendent added that the determination would not affect the ability of CHRISTUS to continue the sale and service of its Medicare Advantage products in the state.

CHRISTUS Health Plan currently offers coverage to approximately 1,100 of the over 56,000 New Mexicans in the individual market. Pursuant to state law, OSI will require CHRISTUS to alert its New Mexico members that their plans will terminate on December 31, 2019. Individuals who need to select new coverage can shop for a plan or find enrollment assistance through New Mexico’s Health Insurance Marketplace, either online at [www.bewellnm.com](http://www.bewellnm.com) or by calling 1-833-862-3935 toll-free. Open enrollment for individual health insurance coverage in the 2020 plan year runs from November 1 through December 15, 2019.

The Office of Superintendent of Insurance offers consumer assistance with individual and small-group health insurance coverage, including benefit denials, through its Managed Health Care Bureau. New Mexico consumers may contact the Managed Health Care Bureau by calling 1-855-4ASK-OSI (1-855-427-5674) toll-free or may file a complaint at <https://www.osi.state.nm.us/index.php/managed-healthcare-complaint/>.