

through the MA plan's established provider network. The MA organization must furnish the same benefits to these enrollees as to enrollees who reside in the service area;

(4) Has been a member of an Employer Group Health Plan (EGHP) that includes the elected MA plan, even if the individual lives outside of the MA plan service area, provided that an MA organization chooses to offer this option and that CMS determines that all applicable MA access requirements at §422.112 are met for that individual through the MA plan's established provider network. The MA organization must furnish the same benefits to all enrollees, regardless of whether they reside in the service area;

(5) Completes and signs an election form or completes another CMS-approved election method offered by the MA organization and provides information required for enrollment; and

(6) Agrees to abide by the rules of the MA organization after they are disclosed to him or her in connection with the election process.

(b) An MA eligible individual may not be enrolled in more than one MA plan at any given time.

[63 FR 35071, June 26, 1998; 63 FR 52611, Oct. 1, 1998, as amended at 65 FR 40316, June 29, 2000; 68 FR 50855, Aug. 22, 2003; 70 FR 4715, Jan. 28, 2005; 70 FR 52026, Sept. 1, 2005]

§ 422.52 Eligibility to elect an MA plan for special needs individuals.

(a) *General rule.* In order to elect a specialized MA plan for a special needs individual (Special Needs MA plan, or SNP), the individual must meet the eligibility requirements specified in this section.

(b) *Basic eligibility requirements.* Except as provided in paragraph (c) of this section, to be eligible to elect an SNP, an individual must:

(1) Meet the definition of a special needs individual, as defined at §422.2;

(2) Meet the eligibility requirements for that specific SNP; and

(3) Be eligible to elect an MA plan under § 422.50.

(c) *Exception to §422.50.* CMS may waive §422.50(a)(2) concerning the exclusion of persons with ESRD.

(d) *Deeming continued eligibility.* If an SNP determines that the enrollee no

longer meets the eligibility criteria, but can reasonably be expected to again meet that criteria within a 6-month period, the enrollee is deemed to continue to be eligible for the MA plan for a period of not less than 30 days but not to exceed 6 months.

(e) *Restricting enrollment.* An SNP must restrict future enrollment to only special needs individuals as established under §422.2.

(f) *Establishing eligibility for enrollment.* A SNP must employ a process approved by CMS to verify the eligibility of each individual enrolling in the SNP.

[70 FR 4716, Jan. 28, 2005, as amended at 74 FR 1541, Jan. 12, 2009]

§ 422.54 Continuation of enrollment for MA local plans.

(a) *Definition.* *Continuation area* means an additional area (outside the service area) within which the MA organization offering a local plan furnishes or arranges to furnish services to its continuation-of-enrollment enrollees. Enrollees must reside in a continuation area on a permanent basis. A continuation area does not expand the service area of any MA local plan.

(b) *Basic rule.* An MA organization may offer a continuation of enrollment option to MA local plan enrollees when they no longer reside in the service area of a plan and permanently move into the geographic area designated by the MA organization as a continuation area. The intent to no longer reside in an area and permanently live in another area is verified through documentation that establishes residency, such as a driver's license or voter registration card.

(c) *General requirements.* (1) An MA organization that wishes to offer a continuation of enrollment option must meet the following requirements:

(i) Obtain CMS's approval of the continuation area, the marketing materials that describe the option, and the MA organization's assurances of access to services.

(ii) Describe the option(s) in the member materials it offers and make the option available to all MA local plan enrollees residing in the continuation area.