

(3) If the individual enrolls in the month following the month in which he or she meets the requirements of § 406.20(c), entitlement begins with the second month after the month of enrollment.

(4) If the individual enrolls more than one month after the month in which he or she first meets the requirements of § 406.20(c), entitlement begins with the third month after the month of enrollment.

(d) *Individual under age 65.* For an individual who has not attained age 65 and who first satisfies the requirements of § 406.20(c) on or after January 1, 2023, the following rules apply:

(1) For individuals who enroll during the first 3 months of their IEP, entitlement begins with the first month of eligibility.

(2) If an individual enrolls during the month in which they first become eligible or any subsequent month of their IEP, entitlement begins with month following the month of enrollment.

[56 FR 38079, Aug. 12, 1991, as amended at 87 FR 66503, Nov. 3, 2022]

**§ 406.24 Special enrollment period related to coverage under group health plans.**

(a) *Terminology.* As used in this subpart, the following terms have the indicated meanings.

(1) *Current employment status* has the meaning given this term in § 411.104 of this chapter.

(2) *Family member* has the meaning given this term in § 411.201 of this chapter.

(3) *Group health plan (GHP)* and *large group health plan (LGHP)* have the meanings given those terms in § 411.101 of this chapter, except that the “former employee” language of those definitions does not apply with respect to SEPs because—

(i) Section 1837(i)(1)(A) of the Act explicitly requires that GHP coverage of an individual age 65 or older, be by reason of the individual’s (or the individual’s spouse’s) current employment status; and

(ii) The sentence following section 1837(i)(1)(B), of the Act refers to “large group health plan”. Under section 1862(b)(1)(B)(i), as amended by OBRA ’93, LGHP coverage of a disabled indi-

vidual must be “by virtue of the individual’s or a family member’s current employment status with an employer”.

(4) *Special enrollment period (SEP)* is a period provided by statute to enable certain individuals to enroll in Medicare without having to wait for the general enrollment period.

(b) *Duration of SEP.*<sup>2</sup> (1) The SEP includes any month during any part of which—

(i) An individual over age 65 is enrolled in a GHP by reason of the current employment status of the individual or the individual’s spouse; or

(ii) An individual under age 65 and disabled—

(A) Is enrolled in a GHP by reason of the current employment status of the individual or the individual’s spouse; or

(B) Is enrolled in an LGHP by reason of the current employment status of the individual or a member of the individual’s family.

(2) The SEP ends on the last day of the eighth consecutive month during which the individual is at no time enrolled in a GHP or an LGHP by reason of current employment status.

(c) *Conditions for use of a SEP.*<sup>3</sup> In order to use a SEP, the individual must meet the following conditions:

(1) When first eligible to enroll for premium hospital insurance under § 406.20(b) or (c), the individual was—

(i) Age 65 or over and covered under a GHP by reason of the current employment status of the individual or the individual’s spouse;

(ii) Under age 65 and covered under an LGHP by reason of the current employment status of the individual or a member of the individual’s family ; or

(iii) Under age 65 and covered under a GHP by reason of the current employment status of the individual or the individual’s spouse.

<sup>2</sup>Before March 1995, SEPs began on the first day of the first month the individual was no longer covered under a GHP or LGHP by reason of current employment status.

<sup>3</sup>Before August 10, 1993, an individual under age 65 could qualify for a SEP only if he or she had LGHP coverage as an “active individual”, which the statute defined as “an employee, employer, self-employed individual (such as the employer), individual associated with the employer in a business relationship, or as a member of the family of any of those persons”.

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(2) For all the months thereafter, the individual has maintained coverage either under hospital insurance or a GHP or LGHP.

(d) *Special rule: Additional SEPs.* (1) Generally, if an individual fails to enroll during any available SEP, he or she is not entitled to any additional SEPs.

(2) However, if an individual fails to enroll during a SEP, because coverage under the same or a different GHP or LGHP was restored before the end of that particular SEP, that failure to enroll does not preclude additional SEPs.

(e) *Effective date of coverage.* (1) If the individual enrolls in a month during any part of which he or she is covered under a GHP or LGHP on the basis of current employment status, or in the first full month when no longer so covered, coverage begins on the first day of the month of enrollment or, at the individual's option, on the first day of any of the three following months.

(2) If the individual enrolls in any month of the SEP other than the months specified in paragraph (e)(1) of this section, coverage begins on the first day of the month following the month of enrollment.

[61 FR 40346, Aug. 2, 1996]

### § 406.25 Special enrollment period for volunteers outside the United States.

(a) *General rule.* A SEP, as defined in § 406.24(a)(4) of this subchapter, is provided for an individual that meets the following requirements:

(1) The individual is serving as a volunteer outside of the United States in a program that covers at least a 12-month period.

(2) The individual is in a program that is sponsored by an organization described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and is exempt from taxation under section 501(a) of Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

(3) The individual can demonstrate that he or she has health insurance that covers medical services that the individual receives outside the United States while serving in the program.

(4) The individual—

(i) At the time he or she first met the requirements of § 406.10 through 406.15 or § 406.20(b), elected not to enroll in

premium hospital insurance during the individual's initial enrollment period; or

(ii) Terminated enrollment in premium hospital insurance during a month in which the individual met the requirements of this section for a SEP.

(b) *Duration of SEP.* The SEP is the 6-month period beginning on the first day of the month that includes the date that the individual no longer meets the requirements of paragraph (a) of this section.

(c) *Effective date of coverage.* Coverage under a SEP authorized by this section begins on the first day of the month following the month in which the individual enrolls.

[73 FR 36468, June 27, 2008]

### § 406.26 Enrollment under State buy-in.

(a) *Enrollment of QMBs under a State buy-in agreement—*(1) *Effective date.* Beginning with calendar year 1990, a State may request and be granted a modification of its buy-in agreement to include enrollment and payment of Part A premiums for QMBs (as defined in section 1905(p)(1) of the Act) who can become entitled to Medicare Part A only by paying a premium.

(i) Any State that has a buy-in agreement in effect must participate in daily exchanges of enrollment data with CMS.

(ii) [Reserved]

(2) *Amount of premium.* Premiums paid under State buy-in are not subject to increase because of late enrollment or reenrollment.

(3) *Enrollment without discrimination.* A State that has a buy-in agreement in effect must enroll in premium health insurance any applicant who meets the eligibility requirement for the QMB eligibility group, with the State paying the premiums on the individual's behalf.

(b) *Beginning of coverage under buy-in.* The coverage period begins with the latest of the following:

(1) The third month following the month in which the agreement modification covering QMBs is effectuated.

(2) The first month in which the individual is entitled to premium hospital insurance under § 406.20(b) and has QMB