

disenroll the enrollee. This notice must be provided before submission of the request to CMS.

(f) *Enrollee moves out of the HMO's or CMP's geographic area*—(1) *Basic rules*—

(i) *Disenrollment*. Except as provided in paragraph (f)(2) of this section, an HMO or CMP must disenroll a Medicare enrollee who moves out of its geographic area if the HMO or CMP establishes, on the basis of a written statement from the enrollee, or other evidence acceptable to CMS, that the enrollee has permanently moved out of its geographic area.

(A) *Incarceration*. The HMO or CMP must disenroll an individual if the HMO or CMP establishes, on the basis of evidence acceptable to CMS, that the individual is incarcerated and does not reside in the geographic service area of the HMO or CMP per §417.1.

(B) *Notification by CMS of incarceration*. When CMS notifies an HMO or CMP of disenrollment due to the individual being incarcerated and not residing in the geographic service area of the HMO or CMP, as per §417.1, the disenrollment is effective the first of the month following the start of incarceration, unless otherwise specified by CMS.

(C) *Exception*. The exception in paragraph (f)(2) of this section does not apply to individuals who are incarcerated.

(ii) *Notice requirement*. The HMO or CMP must comply with the notice requirements set forth in paragraph (d)(2) of this section.

(iii) *Effect on geographic area*. Failure to disenroll an enrollee who has moved out of the HMO's or CMP's geographic area does not expand that area to encompass the location of the enrollee's new residence.

(2) *Exception*. An HMO or CMP may retain a Medicare enrollee who is absent from its geographic area for an extended period, but who remains within the United States as defined in §400.200 of this chapter if the enrollee agrees. For purposes of this exception, the following provisions apply:

(i) An absence for an extended period means an uninterrupted absence from the HMO's or CMP's geographic area for more than 90 days but less than 1 year.

(ii) The HMO or CMP and the enrollee may mutually agree upon restrictions for obtaining services while the enrollee is absent for an extended period from the HMO's or CMP's geographic area. However, restrictions may not be imposed on the scope of services described in §417.440.

(iii) HMOs and CMPs that choose to exercise this exception must make the option available to all Medicare enrollees who are absent for an extended period from their geographic areas. However, HMOs and CMPs may limit this option to enrollees who go to a geographic area served by an affiliated HMO or CMP.

(iv) As used in this paragraph, “affiliated HMO or CMP” means an HMO or CMP that—

(A) Is under common ownership or control of the HMO or CMP that seeks to retain the absent enrollees; or

(B) Has in effect an agreement to furnish services to enrollees who are on an extended absence from the geographic area of the HMO or CMP that seeks to retain them.

(v) When the enrollee returns to the HMO's or CMP's geographic area (even temporarily), the restrictions of §417.448(a) (which limit payment for services not provided or arranged for by the HMO or CMP) apply again immediately.

(vi) If the enrollee fails to return to the HMO's or CMP's geographic area within 1 year from the date he or she left that area, the HMO or CMP must disenroll the beneficiary on the first day of the month following the anniversary of the date the enrollee left that area in accordance with paragraph (f)(1) of this section.

(g) *Failure to convert to risk provisions of Medicare contract*—(1) *Basis for disenrollment*. A risk HMO or CMP must disenroll a nonrisk Medicare enrollee who refuses to convert to the risk provisions of the Medicare contract after CMS determines that all of the HMO's or CMP's nonrisk Medicare enrollees must convert.

(2) *Advance notice requirement*. At least 30 days before it gives CMS notice of disenrollment, the HMO or CMP must give the enrollee written notice of the fact that failure to convert will result in disenrollment.

(h) *Loss of entitlement to Medicare benefits*—(1) *Loss of entitlement to Part A benefits.* If an enrollee loses entitlement to benefits under Part A of Medicare but remains entitled to benefits under Part B, the enrollee automatically continues as a Medicare enrollee of the HMO or CMP and is entitled to receive and have payment made for Part B services, beginning with the month immediately following the last month of his or her entitlement to Part A benefits.

(2) *Loss of entitlement to Part B benefits.* If a Medicare enrollee loses entitlement to Part B benefits, the HMO or CMP must disenroll him or her as a Medicare enrollee effective with the month following the last month of entitlement to Part B benefits. However, the HMO or CMP may continue to enroll the individual under its regular plan if the individual so chooses.

(i) *Death of the enrollee.* Disenrollment is effective with the month following the month of death.

(j) *Enrollee is not lawfully present in the United States.* Disenrollment is effective the first day of the month following notice by CMS that the individual is ineligible in accordance with § 417.422(h).

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§ 417.461 Disenrollment by the enrollee.

(a) *Request for disenrollment.* (1) A Medicare enrollee who wishes to disenroll may at any time give the HMO or CMP a signed, dated request in the form and manner prescribed by CMS.

(2) The enrollee may request a certain disenrollment date but it may be no earlier than the first day of the month following the month in which the HMO or CMP receives the request.

(b) *Responsibilities of the HMO or CMP.* The HMO or CMP must—

(1) Submit a disenrollment notice to CMS promptly;

(2) Provide the enrollee with a copy of the request for disenrollment; and

(3) In the case of a risk HMO or CMP, also provide the enrollee with a statement explaining that he or she—

(i) Remains enrolled until the effective date of disenrollment; and

(ii) Until that date, is subject to the restrictions of § 417.448(a) under which neither the HMO or CMP nor CMS pays for services not provided or arranged for by the HMO or CMP.

(c) *Effect of failure to submit disenrollment notice to CMS promptly.* If the HMO or CMP fails to submit timely the correct and complete notice required in paragraph (b)(1) of this section, the HMO or CMP must reimburse CMS for any capitation payments received after the month in which payments would have ceased if the requirement had been met timely.

[60 FR 45679, Sept. 1, 1995]

§ 417.464 End of CMS's liability for payment: Disenrollment of beneficiaries and termination or default of contract.

(a) *Effect of disenrollment: General rule.* (1) CMS's liability for monthly capitation payments to the HMO or CMP generally ends as of the first day of the month following the month in which disenrollment is effective, as shown on CMS's records.

(2) Disenrollment is effective no earlier than the month immediately after, and no later than the third month after, the month in which CMS receives the disenrollment notice in acceptable form.

(b) *Effect of disenrollment: Special rules*—(1) *Fraud or abuse by the enrollee.* If disenrollment is on the basis of fraud committed or abuse permitted by the enrollee, CMS's liability ends as of the first day of the month in which disenrollment is effective.

(2) *Loss of entitlement to Part B benefits.* If disenrollment is on the basis of loss of entitlement to Part B benefits, CMS's liability ends as of the first day of the month following the last month of Part B entitlement.

(3) *Death of enrollee.* If the enrollee dies, CMS's liability ends as of the first day of the month following the month of death.

(4) *Disenrollment at enrollee's request.* If disenrollment is in response to the enrollee's request, CMS's liability ends as of the first day of the month following the month of termination requested by the enrollee.