

consider public comments on any proposed rule issued pursuant to this subsection for a period of 60 days after the date of such issuance. Not later than 6 months after the date of the conclusion of the comment period, the Secretaries shall issue a final rule implementing the protections of section 2706(a) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300gg-5(a)).”

**§ 300gg-6. Comprehensive health insurance coverage**

**(a) Coverage for essential health benefits package**

A health insurance issuer that offers health insurance coverage in the individual or small group market shall ensure that such coverage includes the essential health benefits package required under section 18022(a) of this title.

**(b) Cost-sharing under group health plans**

A group health plan shall ensure that any annual cost-sharing imposed under the plan does not exceed the limitations provided for under paragraph (1) of section 18022(c)<sup>1</sup> of this title.

**(c) Child-only plans**

If a health insurance issuer offers health insurance coverage in any level of coverage specified under section 18022(d) of this title, the issuer shall also offer such coverage in that level as a plan in which the only enrollees are individuals who, as of the beginning of a plan year, have not attained the age of 21.

**(d) Dental only**

This section shall not apply to a plan described in section 18031(d)(2)(B)(ii)<sup>1</sup> of this title.

(July 1, 1944, ch. 373, title XXVII, § 2707, as added Pub. L. 111-148, title I, § 1201(4), Mar. 23, 2010, 124 Stat. 161; amended Pub. L. 113-93, title II, § 213(b), Apr. 1, 2014, 128 Stat. 1047.)

**Editorial Notes**

REFERENCES IN TEXT

Section 18022(c) of this title, referred to in subsec. (b), was in the original “section 1302(c)”, and was translated as meaning section 1302(c) of Pub. L. 111-148, par. (1) of which relates to annual limitation on cost-sharing, to reflect the probable intent of Congress.

Section 18031(d)(2)(B)(ii) of this title, referred to in subsec. (d), was in the original “section 1302(d)(2)(B)(ii)(I)”, and was translated as meaning section 1311(d)(2)(B)(ii) of Pub. L. 111-148, which relates to offering of stand-alone dental benefits, to reflect the probable intent of Congress.

PRIOR PROVISIONS

A prior section 300gg-6, act July 1, 1944, ch. 373, title XXVII, § 2706, as added Pub. L. 105-277, div. A, § 101(f) [title IX, § 903(a)], Oct. 21, 1998, 112 Stat. 2681-337, 2681-438, which related to required coverage for reconstructive surgery following mastectomies, was renumbered section 2727 of act July 1, 1944, and transferred to section 300gg-27 of this title.

A prior section 2707 of act July 1, 1944, was renumbered section 2728 and is classified to section 300gg-28 of this title.

Another prior section 2707 of act July 1, 1944, was successively renumbered by subsequent acts and transferred, see section 238f of this title.

AMENDMENTS

2014—Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 113-93 substituted “paragraph (1)” for “paragraphs (1) and (2)”.

<sup>1</sup> See References in Text note below.

**Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries**

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2014 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 113-93, title II, § 213(c), Apr. 1, 2014, 128 Stat. 1047, provided that: “The amendments made by this Act [probably means this section, amending this section and section 18022 of this title] shall be effective as if included in the enactment of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (Public Law 111-148).”

EFFECTIVE DATE

Section effective for plan years beginning on or after Jan. 1, 2014, see section 1255 of Pub. L. 111-148, set out as a note under section 300gg of this title.

**§ 300gg-7. Prohibition on excessive waiting periods**

A group health plan and a health insurance issuer offering group health insurance coverage shall not apply any waiting period (as defined in section 300gg-3(b)(4) of this title) that exceeds 90 days.

(July 1, 1944, ch. 373, title XXVII, § 2708, as added and amended Pub. L. 111-148, title I, § 1201(4), title X, § 10103(b), Mar. 23, 2010, 124 Stat. 161, 892.)

**Editorial Notes**

PRIOR PROVISIONS

A prior section 300gg-7, act July 1, 1944, ch. 373, title XXVII, § 2707, as added Pub. L. 110-381, § 2(b)(1), Oct. 9, 2008, 122 Stat. 4083, which related to coverage of dependent students on medically necessary leave of absence, was renumbered section 2728 of act July 1, 1944, and transferred to section 300gg-28 of this title.

A prior section 2708 of act July 1, 1944, was successively renumbered by subsequent acts and transferred, see section 238g of this title.

AMENDMENTS

2010—Pub. L. 111-148, § 10103(b), struck out “or individual” after “offering group”.

**Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries**

EFFECTIVE DATE

Section effective for plan years beginning on or after Jan. 1, 2014, see section 1255 of Pub. L. 111-148, set out as a note under section 300gg of this title.

**§ 300gg-8. Coverage for individuals participating in approved clinical trials**

**(a) Coverage**

**(1) In general**

If a group health plan or a health insurance issuer offering group or individual health insurance coverage provides coverage to a qualified individual, then such plan or issuer—

(A) may not deny the individual participation in the clinical trial referred to in subsection (b)(2);

(B) subject to subsection (c), may not deny (or limit or impose additional conditions on) the coverage of routine patient costs for items and services furnished in connection with participation in the trial; and

(C) may not discriminate against the individual on the basis of the individual's participation in such trial.

**(2) Routine patient costs**

**(A) Inclusion**

For purposes of paragraph (1)(B), subject to subparagraph (B), routine patient costs

include all items and services consistent with the coverage provided in the plan (or coverage) that is typically covered for a qualified individual who is not enrolled in a clinical trial.

**(B) Exclusion**

For purposes of paragraph (1)(B), routine patient costs does not include—

- (i) the investigational item, device, or service, itself;
- (ii) items and services that are provided solely to satisfy data collection and analysis needs and that are not used in the direct clinical management of the patient; or
- (iii) a service that is clearly inconsistent with widely accepted and established standards of care for a particular diagnosis.

**(3) Use of in-network providers**

If one or more participating providers is participating in a clinical trial, nothing in paragraph (1) shall be construed as preventing a plan or issuer from requiring that a qualified individual participate in the trial through such a participating provider if the provider will accept the individual as a participant in the trial.

**(4) Use of out-of-network**

Notwithstanding paragraph (3), paragraph (1) shall apply to a qualified individual participating in an approved clinical trial that is conducted outside the State in which the qualified individual resides.

**(b) Qualified individual defined**

For purposes of subsection (a), the term “qualified individual” means an individual who is a participant or beneficiary in a health plan or with coverage described in subsection (a)(1) and who meets the following conditions:

- (1) The individual is eligible to participate in an approved clinical trial according to the trial protocol with respect to treatment of cancer or other life-threatening disease or condition.
- (2) Either—
  - (A) the referring health care professional is a participating health care provider and has concluded that the individual’s participation in such trial would be appropriate based upon the individual meeting the conditions described in paragraph (1); or
  - (B) the participant or beneficiary provides medical and scientific information establishing that the individual’s participation in such trial would be appropriate based upon the individual meeting the conditions described in paragraph (1).

**(c) Limitations on coverage**

This section shall not be construed to require a group health plan, or a health insurance issuer offering group or individual health insurance coverage, to provide benefits for routine patient care services provided outside of the plan’s (or coverage’s) health care provider network unless out-of-network benefits are otherwise provided under the plan (or coverage).

**(d) Approved clinical trial defined**

**(1) In general**

In this section, the term “approved clinical trial” means a phase I, phase II, phase III, or phase IV clinical trial that is conducted in relation to the prevention, detection, or treatment of cancer or other life-threatening disease or condition and is described in any of the following subparagraphs:

(A) **FEDERALLY FUNDED TRIALS.**—The study or investigation is approved or funded (which may include funding through in-kind contributions) by one or more of the following:

- (i) The National Institutes of Health.
- (ii) The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
- (iii) The Agency for Health Care Research and Quality.
- (iv) The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services.

(v) cooperative<sup>1</sup> group or center of any of the entities described in clauses (i) through (iv) or the Department of Defense or the Department of Veterans Affairs.

(vi) A qualified non-governmental research entity identified in the guidelines issued by the National Institutes of Health for center support grants.

(vii) Any of the following if the conditions described in paragraph (2) are met:

- (I) The Department of Veterans Affairs.
- (II) The Department of Defense.
- (III) The Department of Energy.

(B) The study or investigation is conducted under an investigational new drug application reviewed by the Food and Drug Administration.

(C) The study or investigation is a drug trial that is exempt from having such an investigational new drug application.

**(2) Conditions for departments**

The conditions described in this paragraph, for a study or investigation conducted by a Department, are that the study or investigation has been reviewed and approved through a system of peer review that the Secretary determines—

(A) to be comparable to the system of peer review of studies and investigations used by the National Institutes of Health, and

(B) assures unbiased review of the highest scientific standards by qualified individuals who have no interest in the outcome of the review.

**(e) Life-threatening condition defined**

In this section, the term “life-threatening condition” means any disease or condition from which the likelihood of death is probable unless the course of the disease or condition is interrupted.

**(f) Construction**

Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit a plan’s or issuer’s coverage with respect to clinical trials.

<sup>1</sup> So in original. Probably should be preceded by “A”.

**(g) Application to FEHBP**

Notwithstanding any provision of chapter 89 of title 5, this section shall apply to health plans offered under the program under such chapter.

**(h) Preemption**

Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter, nothing in this section shall preempt State laws that require a clinical trials policy for State regulated health insurance plans that is in addition to the policy required under this section..

(July 1, 1944, ch. 373, title XXVII, § 2709, as added Pub. L. 111-148, title X, § 10103(c), Mar. 23, 2010, 124 Stat. 892.)

**Editorial Notes**

## CODIFICATION

Another section 2709 of act July 1, 1944, is classified to section 300gg-9 of this title.

## PRIOR PROVISIONS

A prior section 2709 of act July 1, 1944, was successively renumbered by subsequent acts and transferred, see section 238h of this title.

**§ 300gg-9. Disclosure of information****(a) Disclosure of information by health plan issuers**

In connection with the offering of any health insurance coverage to a small employer or an individual, a health insurance issuer—

(1) shall make a reasonable disclosure to such employer, or individual, as applicable,<sup>1</sup> as part of its solicitation and sales materials, of the availability of information described in subsection (b), and

(2) upon request of such a<sup>2</sup> employer, or individual, as applicable,<sup>1</sup> provide such information.

**(b) Information described****(1) In general**

Subject to paragraph (3), with respect to a health insurance issuer offering health insurance coverage to a<sup>2</sup> employer, or individual, as applicable,<sup>1</sup> information described in this subsection is information concerning—

(A) the provisions of such coverage concerning issuer's right to change premium rates and the factors that may affect changes in premium rates; and

(B) the benefits and premiums available under all health insurance coverage for which the employer, or individual, as applicable, is qualified.

**(2) Form of information**

Information under this subsection shall be provided to employers, or individuals, as applicable, in a manner determined to be understandable by the average employer, or individual, as applicable,<sup>1</sup> and shall be sufficient to reasonably inform employers, or individuals, as applicable, of their rights and obligations under the health insurance coverage.

**(3) Exception**

An issuer is not required under this section to disclose any information that is proprietary

and trade secret information under applicable law.

(July 1, 1944, ch. 373, title XXVII, § 2709, formerly § 2713, as added Pub. L. 104-191, title I, § 102(a), Aug. 21, 1996, 110 Stat. 1966; renumbered § 2733, renumbered § 2709, and amended Pub. L. 111-148, title I, §§ 1001(3), 1563(c)(10), formerly § 1562(c)(10), title X, § 10107(b)(1), Mar. 23, 2010, 124 Stat. 130, 268, 911.)

**Editorial Notes**

## CODIFICATION

Section was formerly classified to section 300gg-13 of this title prior to renumbering by Pub. L. 111-148.

Another section 2709 of act July 1, 1944, is classified to section 300gg-8 of this title.

## PRIOR PROVISIONS

A prior section 2709 of act July 1, 1944, was successively renumbered by subsequent acts and transferred, see section 238h of this title.

## AMENDMENTS

2010—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 111-148, § 1563(c)(10)(A), formerly § 1562(c)(10)(A), as renumbered by Pub. L. 111-148, § 10107(b)(1), in introductory provisions substituted “small employer or an individual” for “small employer”, in par. (1) inserted “, or individual, as applicable,” after “employer”, and in par. (2) substituted “employer, or individual, as applicable,” for “small employer”.

Subsec. (b)(1). Pub. L. 111-148, § 1563(c)(10)(B)(i), formerly § 1562(c)(10)(B)(i), as renumbered by Pub. L. 111-148, § 10107(b)(1), in introductory provisions substituted “employer, or individual, as applicable,” for “small employer”, in subpar. (A), inserted “and” at end, struck out subpars. (B) and (C) which related to provisions of coverage relating to renewability of coverage and preexisting condition exclusions, respectively, in subpar. (D), inserted “, or individual, as applicable,” after “employer”, and redesignated subpar. (D) as (B).

Subsec. (b)(2). Pub. L. 111-148, § 1563(c)(10)(B)(ii), formerly § 1562(c)(10)(B)(ii), as renumbered by Pub. L. 111-148, § 10107(b)(1), substituted “employer, or individual, as applicable,” for “small employer” and “employers, or individuals, as applicable,” for “small employers” in two places.

**Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries**

## EFFECTIVE DATE

Section applicable with respect to group health plans, and health insurance coverage offered in connection with group health plans, for plan years beginning after June 30, 1997, except as otherwise provided, see section 102(c) of Pub. L. 104-191, set out as a note under section 300gg of this title.

## SUBPART II—IMPROVING COVERAGE

**Editorial Notes**

## PRIOR PROVISIONS

A prior subpart 2, consisting of sections 300gg-4 to 300gg-7, related to other requirements, prior to repeal of the subpart designation and heading and transfer of sections 300gg-4 to 300gg-7 to 300gg-25 to 300gg-28, respectively, of this title by Pub. L. 111-148, title I, §§ 1001(2), 1563(c)(2), formerly § 1562(c)(2), title X, § 10107(b)(1), Mar. 23, 2010, 124 Stat. 130, 265, 911.

Another prior subpart 2, consisting of sections 300gg-11 to 300gg-13, related to provisions applicable only to health insurance issuers, was redesignated subpart 3 of this part by Pub. L. 104-204, title VI, § 604(a)(2), Sept. 26, 1996, 110 Stat. 2939.

<sup>1</sup> So in original.

<sup>2</sup> So in original. Probably should be “an”.