



RULE-MAKING ORDER

CR-103E (July 2011)
(Implements RCW 34.05.350)

Agency: Office of the Insurance Commissioner

Emergency Rule Only

Effective date of rule:

Emergency Rules

- Immediately upon filing.
- Later (specify) _____

Any other findings required by other provisions of law as precondition to adoption or effectiveness of rule?

- Yes No If Yes, explain:

Purpose: To offer access to coverage on the outside insurance marked to Washington Health Benefit Exchange consumers who have been unable to gain or maintain coverage through the Washington Health Benefits Exchange.

Insurance Commissioner Matter No. R2014-11

Citation of existing rules affected by this order:

- Repealed:
- Amended: WAC 284-170-425
- Suspended:

Statutory authority for adoption: RCW 48.02.060; 48.43.340.

Other authority : 45 CFR 147.104(b)(3); 45 CFR 155.420.

EMERGENCY RULE

Under RCW 34.05.350 the agency for good cause finds:

- That immediate adoption, amendment, or repeal of a rule is necessary for the preservation of the public health, safety, or general welfare, and that observing the time requirements of notice and opportunity to comment upon adoption of a permanent rule would be contrary to the public interest.
- That state or federal law or federal rule or a federal deadline for state receipt of federal funds requires immediate adoption of a rule.
- That in order to implement the requirements or reductions in appropriations enacted in any budget for fiscal year 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, or 2013, which necessitates the need for the immediate adoption, amendment, or repeal of a rule, and that observing the time requirements of notice and opportunity to comment upon adoption of a permanent rule would be contrary to the fiscal needs or requirements of the agency.

Reasons for this finding: The rule is necessary in order to offer access to coverage on the outside insurance market to Washington Health Benefit Exchange consumers who have been unable to gain or maintain coverage through the Washington Health Benefits Exchange.

Date adopted: August 27, 2014

NAME (TYPE OR PRINT)

Mike Kreidler

SIGNATURE

TITLE

Insurance Commissioner

CODE REVISER USE ONLY

OFFICE OF THE CODE REVISER
STATE OF WASHINGTON
FILED

DATE: August 27, 2014

TIME: 9:19 AM

WSR 14-18-032

(COMPLETE REVERSE SIDE)

**Note: If any category is left blank, it will be calculated as zero.
No descriptive text.**

**Count by whole WAC sections only, from the WAC number through the history note.
A section may be counted in more than one category.**

The number of sections adopted in order to comply with:

Federal statute:	New	Amended	_____	Repealed	_____	
Federal rules or standards:	New	Amended	_____	Repealed	_____	
Recently enacted state statutes:	New	_____	Amended	_____	Repealed	_____

The number of sections adopted at the request of a nongovernmental entity:

New	_____	Amended	_____	Repealed	_____
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The number of sections adopted in the agency's own initiative:

New		Amended	<u>1</u>	Repealed	_____
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The number of sections adopted in order to clarify, streamline, or reform agency procedures:

New	_____	Amended	<u>1</u>	Repealed	_____
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The number of sections adopted using:

Negotiated rule making:	New	_____	Amended	_____	Repealed	_____
Pilot rule making:	New	_____	Amended	_____	Repealed	_____
Other alternative rule making:	New		Amended	<u>1</u>	Repealed	_____

WAC 284-170-425 Individual market special enrollment requirements. (1) For a nongrandfathered individual health plan offered on or off the health benefit exchange, an issuer must make a special enrollment period of not less than sixty days available to any person who experiences a qualifying event, permitting enrollment in an individual health benefit plan outside the open enrollment period. This requirement applies to plans offered on the health benefit exchange that cover pediatric oral benefits offered as essential health benefits necessary to satisfy minimum essential coverage requirements.

(2) A qualifying event means the occurrence of one of the following:

(a) The loss of minimum essential coverage, including employer sponsored insurance coverage due to action by either the employer or the issuer or due to the individual's loss of eligibility for the employer sponsored coverage, or the loss of the individual or group coverage of a person under whose policy they were enrolled, unless the loss is based on the individual's misrepresentation of a material fact affecting coverage or for fraud related to the discontinued health coverage;

(b) The loss of eligibility for medicaid or a public program providing health benefits;

(c) The loss of coverage as the result of dissolution of marriage or termination of a domestic partnership;

(d) A permanent change in residence, work, or living situation, whether or not within the choice of the individual, where the health plan under which they were covered does not provide coverage in that person's new service area;

(e) The birth, placement for or adoption of the person for whom coverage is sought. For newborns, coverage must be effective from the moment of birth; for those adopted or placed for adoption, coverage must be effective from the date of adoption or placement for adoption, whichever occurs first;

(f) A situation in which a plan no longer offers any benefits to the class of similarly situated individuals that includes the individual;

(g) Coverage is discontinued in a qualified health plan by the health benefit exchange pursuant to 45 C.F.R. 155.430 and the three month grace period for continuation of coverage has expired;

(h) Exhaustion of COBRA coverage due to failure of the employer to remit premium;

(i) Loss of COBRA coverage where the individual has exceeded the lifetime limit in the plan and no other COBRA coverage is available;

(j) If the person discontinues coverage under a health plan offered pursuant to chapter 48.41 RCW;

(k) Loss of coverage as a dependent on a group plan due to age;

(l) Marriage or entering into a domestic partnership, including eligibility as a dependent of an individual marrying or entering into a domestic partnership;

(m) An otherwise eligible individual was unable to gain or maintain coverage in a qualified health plan or a qualified dental plan offered through the health benefit exchange due to an error, misrepresentation, or inaction of the health benefit exchange or due to an er-

ror, misrepresentation, or inaction of the department of health and human services.

(3) If the special enrollee had prior coverage, or attempted and failed to obtain prior coverage due to conditions described in subsection (2)(m) of this section, an issuer must offer a special enrollee each of the benefit packages available to individuals who enrolled during the open enrollment period within the same metal tier or level at which the person was previously enrolled. Any difference in benefits or cost-sharing requirements for different individuals constitutes a different benefit package.

(a) A special enrollee cannot be required to pay more for coverage than a similarly situated individual who enrolls during open enrollment.

(b) An issuer may limit a special enrollee who was enrolled in a catastrophic plan as defined in RCW 48.43.005(8) to the plans available during open enrollment at either the bronze or silver level.

(c) An issuer may restrict a special enrollee whose eligibility is based on their status as a dependent to the same metal tier for the plan on which the primary subscriber is enrolled.

(4) An issuer may require reasonable proof or documentation that an individual seeking special enrollment has experienced a qualifying event.