

PCIP Coverage Ends April 30

Fact Sheet

Benefits coverage for current enrollees in the Pre-Existing Condition Insurance Plan (PCIP) will end on April 30, 2014. PCIP benefits will not be extended to May. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) released a bulletin today that provides a 60-day special enrollment period due to ‘exceptional circumstances’ for individuals remaining in the program who have not found new coverage that begins on May 1.

Bulletin on the special enrollment period for PCIP enrollees

The Pre-Existing Condition Insurance Plan (PCIP) has offered four months of transitional PCIP coverage in 2014. In the Affordable Care Act, Congress gave CMS the authority to extend PCIP coverage beyond 2013 to avoid a break in coverage for PCIP enrollees transitioning into coverage offered through the Marketplace. The initial enrollment period for the Marketplace for the 2014 coverage year ended on March 31, 2014.

In order to ensure that eligible individuals remaining in the program can avoid a break in coverage when PCIP terminates on April 30, CMS is providing a 60-day special enrollment period, beginning on May 1, for enrollment in a qualified health plan offered through the Federally-facilitated Marketplace in 2014. State-based Marketplaces are adopting a similar special enrollment period. PCIP enrollees will have until June 30, 2014 to select a plan. If the enrollee is otherwise eligible to enroll in a qualified health plan, coverage will be effective back to May 1 for anyone who uses this special enrollment period.

Federal regulations [45 CFR 155.420(d)(9)] specify that a special enrollment period must be provided when an enrollee demonstrates to the Exchange, in accordance with guidelines issued by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), that they have met other exceptional circumstances “as the Exchange may provide.” In accordance with this provision, HHS is providing that an individual, who is losing coverage through PCIP by virtue of the program’s termination, as defined in 45 CFR 155.420(a)(2), has experienced “exceptional circumstances. Accordingly, the Federally-facilitated Marketplace will determine a PCIP enrollee eligible for a special enrollment period if otherwise eligible for enrollment in a qualified health plan.