

**§ 1357.15. Notice of material modification; Amendments to plan;
Maintenance of information; Availability of risk adjustment factor**

(a) At least 20 business days prior to renewing or amending a plan contract subject to this article which will be in force on the operative date of this article, a plan shall file a notice of material modification with the director in accordance with the provisions of Section 1352. The notice of material modification shall include a statement certifying that the plan is in compliance with subdivision (j) of Section 1357 and Section 1357.12. The certified statement shall set forth the standard employee risk rate for each risk category and the highest and lowest risk adjustment factors that will be used in setting the rates at which the contract will be renewed or amended. Any action by the director, as permitted under Section 1352, to disapprove, suspend or postpone the plan's use of a plan contract shall be in writing, specifying the reasons that the plan contract does not comply with the requirements of this chapter.

(b) At least 20 business days prior to offering a plan contract subject to this article, all plans shall file a notice of material modification with the director in accordance with the provisions of Section 1352. The notice of material modification shall include a statement certifying that the plan is in compliance with subdivision (j) of Section 1357 and Section 1357.12. The certified statement shall set forth the standard employee risk rate for each risk category and the highest and lowest risk adjustment factors that will be used in setting the rates at which the contract will be offered. Plans that will be offering to a small employer plan contracts approved by the director prior to the effective date of this article shall file a notice of material modification in accordance with this subdivision. Any action by the director, as permitted under Section 1352, to disapprove, suspend or postpone the plan's use of a plan contract shall be in

writing, specifying the reasons that the plan contract does not comply with the requirements of this chapter.

(c) Prior to making any changes in the risk categories, risk adjustment factors or standard employee risk rates filed with the director pursuant to subdivision (a) or (b), the plan shall file as an amendment a statement setting forth the changes and certifying that the plan is in compliance with subdivision (j) of Section 1357 and Section 1357.12. A plan may commence offering plan contracts utilizing the changed risk categories set forth in the certified statement on the 31st day from the date of the filing, or at an earlier time determined by the director, unless the director disapproves the amendment by written notice, stating the reasons therefor. If only the standard employee risk rate is being changed, and not the risk categories or risk adjustment factors, a plan may commence offering plan contracts utilizing the changed standard employee risk rate upon filing the certified statement unless the director disapproves the amendment by written notice.

(d) Periodic changes to the standard employee risk rate that a plan proposes to implement over the course of up to 12 consecutive months may be filed in conjunction with the certified statement filed under subdivision (a), (b), or (c).

(e) Each plan shall maintain at its principal place of business all of the information required to be filed with the director pursuant to this section.

(f) Each plan shall make available to the director, on request, the risk adjustment factor used in determining the rate for any particular small employer.

(g) Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit the director's authority to enforce the rating practices set forth in this article.

HISTORY:

Added Stats 1992 ch 1128 § 5 (AB 1672),

operative July 1, 1993. Amended Stats 1999 ch 525 § 65 (AB 78), operative July 1, 2000.

§ 1357.16. Provision of administrative services by qualified associations

(a) Health care service plans may enter into contractual agreements with qualified associations, as defined in subdivision (b), under which these qualified associations may assume responsibility for performing specific administrative services, as defined in this section, for qualified association members. Health care service plans that enter into agreements with qualified associations for assumption of administrative services shall establish uniform definitions for the administrative services that may be provided by a qualified association or its third-party administrator. The health care service plan shall permit all qualified associations to assume one or more of these functions when the health care service plan determines the qualified association demonstrates the administrative capacity to assume these functions.

For the purposes of this section, administrative services provided by qualified associations or their third-party administrators shall be services pertaining to eligibility determination, enrollment, premium collection, sales, or claims administration on a per-claim basis that would otherwise be provided directly by the health care service plan or through a third-party administrator on a commission basis or an agent or solicitor workforce on a commission basis.

Each health care service plan that enters into an agreement with any qualified association for the provision of administrative services shall offer all

qualified associations with which it contracts the same premium discounts for performing those services the health care service plan has permitted the qualified association or its third-party administrator to assume. The health care service plan shall apply these uniform discounts to the health care service plan's risk adjusted employee risk rates after the health plan has determined the qualified association's risk adjusted employee risk rates pursuant to Section 1357.12. The health care service plan shall report to the Department of Managed Health Care its schedule of discount for each administrative service.

In no instance may a health care service plan provide discounts to qualified associations that are in any way intended to, or materially result in, a reduction in premium charges to the qualified association due to the health status of the membership of the qualified association. In addition to any other remedies available to the director to enforce this chapter, the director may declare a contract between a health care service plan and a qualified association for administrative services pursuant to this section null and void if the director determines any discounts provided to the qualified association are intended to, or materially result in, a reduction in premium charges to the qualified association due to the health status of the membership of the qualified association.

(b) For the purposes of this section, a qualified association is a nonprofit corporation comprised of a group of individuals or employers who associate based solely on participation in a specified profession or industry, that conforms to all of the following requirements:

(1) It accepts for membership any individual or small employer meeting its membership criteria.

(2) It does not condition membership directly or indirectly on the health or claims history of any person.

(3) It uses membership dues solely for and in consideration of the membership and membership benefits, except that the amount of the dues shall not depend on whether the member applies for or purchases insurance offered by the association.

(4) It is organized and maintained in good faith for purposes unrelated to insurance.

(5) It existed on January 1, 1972, and has been in continuous existence since that date.

(6) It has a constitution and bylaws or other analogous governing documents that provide for election of the governing board of the association by its members.

(7) It offered, marketed, or sold health coverage to its members for 20 continuous years prior to January 1, 1993.

(8) It agrees to offer only to association members any plan contract.

(9) It agrees to include any member choosing to enroll in the plan contract offered by the association, provided that the member agrees to make required premium payments.

(10) It complies with all provisions of this article.

(11) It had at least 10,000 enrollees covered by association sponsored plans immediately prior to enactment of Chapter 1128 of the Statutes of 1992.

(12) It applies any administrative cost at an equal rate to all members purchasing coverage through the qualified association.

(c) A qualified association shall comply with Section 1357.52.

HISTORY:

Added Stats 1996 ch 641 § 1 (AB 1360), operative until January 1, 2003. Amended Stats 1997 ch 336 § 6 (SB 578), effective August 21, 1997; Stats 1998 ch 107 § 2 (AB 112),

effective July 6, 1998; Stats 1999 ch 525 § 66 (AB 78), operative July 1, 2000; Stats 2000 ch 857 § 30 (AB 2903), repealed January 1, 2003; Stats 2002 ch 227 § 1 (SB 1877); Stats 2012 ch 728 § 82 (SB 71), effective January 1, 2013.