



Request for Comment Regarding Standards Related to Essential Health Benefits and Recognition of Entities for the Accreditation of Qualified Health Plans

Agency: Joint agency request by the Minnesota Departments of Commerce, Human Services and Health.

Summary of Proposed Rule: Data Collection to Support Standards Related to Essential Health Benefits; Recognition of Entities for the Accreditation of Qualified Health Plans

On Friday June 1, 2012, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services released proposed rules regarding essential health benefits and entities for the accreditation of Qualified Health Plans. This proposed rule would establish data collection standards necessary to implement aspects of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (Affordable Care Act), which directs the Secretary of Health and Human Services to define essential health benefits. This proposed rule outlines the data on applicable plans to be collected from certain issuers to support the definition of essential health benefits. A bulletin on HHS' intended benchmark approach to defining essential health benefits was published for comment on December 16, 2011, and HHS intends to pursue comprehensive rulemaking on essential health benefits in the future. This proposed rule would also establish a process for the recognition of accrediting entities for purposes of certification of qualified health plans.

The proposed rule can be found on the Office of Federal Register website:

http://www.ofr.gov/OFRUpload/OFRData/2012-13489_PL.pdf

Previous Requests for Comment, responses received and Minnesota comments submitted to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, including those related to the Essential Health Benefits bulletin, can be found on the Minnesota Department of Commerce website:

<http://mn.gov/commerce/insurance/topics/medical/exchange/Exch-Comments-Submitted>

Request for Comments: This request identifies a broad set of content areas of interest related to the proposed rule. This is a request for comment regarding the aforementioned proposed rule to assist the Departments in preparing a formal response. Comments are requested on all parts of the proposed rule and will be most useful if they are organized by the paragraph of the proposed rule to which they apply.

Date Requested: On or before 3pm central time on Friday June 22, 2012.

How to Send Comments: Send written comments to HealthReform.MN@state.mn.us and write "Essential Health Benefits" in the subject line of the email.