

Health Care Reform and You



Our first article in the September issue of Showcase covered key points of “The Individual Mandate” which begins in 2014. In the second edition of our series of articles on Health Care Reform we will tackle enrolling in a Qualified Health Plan(QHP). We will address who qualifies, when he or she can enroll and when there are special circumstances to enroll at other times.

Enrollment Criteria

What criteria must an individual meet to be eligible for enrollment in a “Qualified Health Plan” (QHP) through an Exchange?

- Is a citizen, national or non-citizen lawfully present in the U.S., and is reasonably expected to remain so for the entire period for which enrollment is sought;
- Is not incarcerated; and
- Resides in the state covered by the Exchange.

The Exchange in the individual’s residing state will determine whether he or she meets the criteria for enrollment. Once eligibility is determined, the Exchange will provide written notice to the individual in a timely manner.

Enrollment Periods

The Affordable Care Act requires the Exchange to have an initial enrollment period. It also requires an annual open enrollment period after the initial and certain special enrollment periods. To enroll in a Qualified Health Plan, an individual must do so in one of the enrollment periods.

When is the initial open enrollment period and when will coverage start?

- The initial open enrollment period will run from **October 1st 2013 through March 31st 2014**.
- If an individual enrolls by December 15th 2013 he or she will have coverage effective January 1st 2014.
- For enrollment applications received after December 15th 2013 and before January 16th coverage will begin on February 1st.
- January 16th through February 15th coverage will begin on March 1st.
- February 16th through March 15th coverage will begin on April 1st.
- March 16th through March 31st coverage will begin on May 1st.

What are the Special Enrollment Periods?

- Special Enrollment Periods allow qualified individuals to enroll in a QHP when a triggering event occurs in his or her life.
- Examples of a triggering event are marriage and birth of a child.
- If an individual has a triggering event he or she will have a 60 day Special Enrollment Period.
- Coverage will begin on the first day of the next month if application is submitted before the 16th of the preceding month.
- Coverage will be effective on the date of birth, adoption or placement for adoption if that is the special enrollment triggering event.

Knowing when you can enroll in a Qualified Health Plan is a critical part of making sure you abide by “The Individual Mandate.” The Affordable Care Act is upon us and we must stay abreast to how it will affect each of us. We will continue to tackle important facets of the law in coming months.

This article is not intended to be exhaustive nor should any discussion or opinions be construed as legal advice. Readers should contact legal counsel for legal advice.



Sponsored by:

BANKERS INSURANCE

 Carter Bank & Trust

Call Us to Enroll Today.

434-793-8322

CBTBI.com

515 Memorial Drive, Danville, Virginia

*Left to Right Standing: Gene Hayes CIC and Nancy Clardy
Seated: Robert Jones CIC, Bob Willeford CIC and Wes Moorefield*

These products are not a deposit, not FDIC insured, not guaranteed by the bank or any Federal agency