



Standardized Benefit Design
Workgroup
April 27, 2017



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Welcome and Introductions

Standing Agenda

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Roll Call


Meeting Minutes Approval - March

Meeting Timeline & Topics 

✘ **April 27, 2017 – Recommendations for scope of the SBD Policy**

Synopsis: Workgroup members will converse on the scope of the Standardized Benefit Design including:

- An issuer requirement to offer standardized benefit designs;
- Standardized benefit design availability in the individual and SHOP Marketplaces;
- Standardized benefit design availability across, a subset, or each metal level;
- Standardized benefit designs and health savings account/high deductible health plan eligibility;
- Standardized benefit designs and established QHP offering rules, i.e. limitation standards and meaningful difference
- Standardized benefit designs and network type considerations, and copay/coinsurance cost-sharing considerations therein.

Plan Management Policy in Maryland 

✘ **2014 Plan Year:**

- Minimum QHP offering requirement: Participating issuers must offer at least a single QHP at the bronze, silver, and gold metal levels.
- Maximum QHP offering limitation: Participating issuers are limited to offering up to four QHPs for each metal level.

✘ **2016 Plan Year**

- Meaningful difference standard: Issuer QHP offerings will be scrutinized under the federal meaningful difference standard

	Minimum per Issuer		Maximum per Issuer	
	3 QHPs		16 QHPs	
	2014	2015	2016	2017
Issuers	4	5	5	3
Offered QHPs	41	45	44	26
Maximum QHPs	64	80	80	48

Standard QHP Offerings: Required vs. Optional 

✘ Seven out of nine marketplaces that offer a standardized QHP also require that participating issuers offer at least one standard QHP.

✘ Non-standard QHP offering requirements vary from marketplace to marketplace.

✘ **General Policy (excluding California and Vermont):** Issuers are required to offer the standard QHPs and also allow for issuers to offer a limited set of non-standard QHPs.

Standard QHP Offerings: Individual/SHOP 

- ✘ Only California has created standard QHPs in its SHOP Marketplace. Issuers must offer the standard QHPs but may offer alternative benefit designs if approved by the Marketplace.
- ✘ Maryland-precedent: pre-ACA Small Group Market Reforms instituted a Comprehensive Standard Health Benefit Plan with established cost-sharing, etc.

Standard QHP Offerings: Availability across metal levels 


- ✘ All Marketplaces that offer standard QHPs offer them at least on the bronze, silver and gold metal levels.
- ✘ All Marketplaces that offer standard QHPs also offer platinum standard QHPs. Exceptions: FFM and Oregon
- ✘ Seven out of nine Marketplaces that offer standard QHPs also offer two bronze standard QHP designs.
- ✘ Vermont and California offer two silver standard QHP designs
- ✘ California offers two sets of standard QHP designs at each metal level for eight total standard QHP designs (difference in cost-structure copay vs. coinsurance)

Standard QHP Offerings: HSA/HDHP 

- ✘ Six marketplace offer a standard QHP that is HSA-eligible/meets HDHP criteria.
- ✘ Six offer standard bronze QHPs that HDHP criteria
- ✘ Vermont and California offer a standard silver HSA-eligible QHP.

Standard QHP Offerings: Marketplace Plan Management Rules 

- ✘ Four Marketplaces that require standard QHP offerings have a form of QHP limitation standards.
- ✘ Connecticut and Oregon: No more than four QHPs per metal level offered.
- ✘ Massachusetts: Three non-standard QHPs per issuer.
- ✘ New York: Limitation standard at the product level, i.e. up to three non-standard products with QHPs offer at a minimum of two metal levels. Exception where offering of standard QHPs that include 3 PCP before deductible do not count toward the number of non-standard products offered.
- ✘ All Marketplaces that offer standard QHPs also have a meaningful difference schema.

Standard QHP Offerings: Considerations 

- ✘ California's marketplace developed two sets of standard QHPs – one set with copay and the other coinsurance.
- ✘ Massachusetts allows issuers to submit multiple standard QHPs with network variations (Broadest vs. Other Network). Massachusetts only standardized 21 benefits with the remainder to be variable.
- ✘ Connecticut requires the silver standard QHP offering to be the lowest cost offering for any silver QHP offered by each issuer. Resulting in the SLCSPP to be a standard QHP.

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Questions or Comments?
mhbe_publiccomments@Maryland.gov
