



To: Issuers Seeking to Participate in Maryland Health Connection in 2017

From: Maryland Health Benefit Exchange – Plan Management

Date: May 13, 2016

**Re: Amendment to FINAL 2017 Letter to Issuers Seeking to Participate in Maryland Health Connection**

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The MHBE *FINAL 2017 Letter to Issuers Seeking to Participate in Maryland Health Connection* dated January 25, 2016 (the Letter) detailed qualified health plan (QHP) and stand-alone dental plan (SADP) carrier and plan certification standards for the 2017 plan year. As described in the Letter, the plan certification standards are subject to amendment due to changes in federal and State statutes and regulations.

Maryland House Bill 1318, Health Benefit Plans - Network Access Standards and Provider Network Directories, signed by Governor Larry Hogan on April 26, 2016, establishes certain standards pertaining to carrier's provider directories, among other requirements. Accordingly, MHBE provides the amendments to the Letter set forth below to: (a) remove the location and updating requirements specified in Chapter 4, Section G.vi. of the Letter; and (b) remove, in their entirety, the provider directory improvement strategy and transparency requirements set forth in Chapter 4, Section G.vii. of the Letter.

Specifically, the Letter is hereby amended as follows:

1. Chapter 4, Section G, vi. Provider Directory Availability on Issuer Website, is amended to remove unnumbered paragraphs two, three and four and shall now read, in its entirety:

**vi. Provider Directory Availability on Issuer Website**

Pursuant to 45 CFR §156.230(b), Issuers must make available, in a manner to be determined by the issuer, provider directory information on their website without requiring a login.

Additionally, for 2017, MHBE is removing the previous requirement for issuers to develop machine-readable provider directory files in the format specified by CCIIO. The format already developed for the CRISP Provider Directory submissions is deemed sufficient for this purpose.

2. Chapter 4, Section G.vii. Provider Directory Improvement Strategy and Transparency Requirements, is amended and removed in its entirety.