Women's Preventive Religious Exemption

On August 1, 2011, the Department of Health and Human Services adopted additional Guidelines for Women’s Preventive Services, such as well-woman visits, breastfeeding support, contraception and counseling, and domestic violence screening. Recently, further refinement and guidance on the provisions for religious organizations were received for groups meeting the criteria for non-profit religious affiliated employers. This change impacts eligible 100+ groups that took unsuccessful action before February 10, 2012, to try to exclude or limit some or all contraceptive coverage otherwise required in the women’s preventive guidelines, and allows such groups to claim exemption under the temporary enforcement Safe Harbor, providing they qualify under the other provisions. Groups applying for an exemption will be required to complete an exemption form and return it to their sales account executive prior to their renewal. Groups whose exemption forms are received after renewal will lose and be unable to regain the non-profit “religious-affiliated” employer safe harbor and exemption, even if they otherwise were eligible.

If you have any questions, please contact your Regence Sales Executive.

Group Summary of Benefit and Coverage (SBC) Documents Available Via Agent Center

An SBC is included with each group's renewal for its current benefit plan(s). You can request an SBC for any new quote or benefit alternative available through Agent Center.

Please note, once a group is renewed or sold, producers will not need to request an SBC. Regence will automatically issue an SBC and display it in Agent Center under Group Details tab. If there are any benefit or other changes that were made at the time of renewal, we also will issue an SBC to the group. In addition, groups can access their SBC in Employer Center after their set-up is complete.

Please refer to the original communication about SBCs sent on 9/25/2012 for additional information.

If you have questions, please contact your Regence Sales Executive.
Probationary Periods
When Employees Have A February Effective Date

This is a reminder that the probationary period for new hires, calculated in number of days, begins on their date of hire. Coverage becomes effective the first of the month following satisfaction of any probationary periods required by the employer. Because February is a short month, any probationary period satisfied during this time may result in an effective date that's different from the one you expected.

For example: If an employee's first day is February 1 and the group has a 30-day probationary period, the employee is eligible for enrollment on April 1. The 30-day probationary period ends March 2, and the effective date is the first day of the following month—April 1.

Try our effective date calculator to help determine your clients' effective dates. If you don't have Excel, you can download Microsoft Excel Viewer, which will enable you to use the calculator.

For additional information, please contact your Regence Sales Executive.

Going Paperless Also Gives Back To Our Communities

We believe going paperless is so important that we created a campaign to encourage members to participate.

For every member who voluntarily opted out of paper between October 1 and December 15, 2012 Regence donated $1 to local community charity partners. The results are in: We donated $3,250 to Food Lifeline in Washington, and a total of $7,100 to local charities among the four states Regence operates in.

Thanks to everyone who contributed to our efforts to go paperless and help those in need!
Member Cards
Getting Stickers To Promote Awareness Of myRegence.com

We've started attaching stickers to new enrollment, renewal and replacement member cards. These stickers are placed on group and Individual member cards any time they're generated. They are not on Medicare member cards.

![Register on myRegence.com today to activate your account and receive 5,000 Rewards points!]

We hope that drawing attention to myRegence.com will encourage members to use electronic explanation of benefits (EOBs) as well as tools found on myRegence.com.

Members can receive 5,000 Rewards points toward Amazon gift cards when they activate their account on myRegence.com.

If you have any questions about this, please talk to your Regence Sales Executive.