

1985, Pub. L. 99-272, see section 1895(e) of Pub. L. 99-514, set out as a note under section 162 of Title 26, Internal Revenue Code.

CONSTRUCTION OF 2002 AMENDMENT

Nothing in amendment by Pub. L. 107-210, other than provisions relating to COBRA continuation coverage and reporting requirements, to be construed as creating new mandate on any party regarding health insurance coverage, see section 203(f) of Pub. L. 107-210, set out as a note under section 2918 of Title 29, Labor.

PLAN AMENDMENTS NOT REQUIRED UNTIL JANUARY 1, 1989

For provisions directing that if any amendments made by subtitle A or subtitle C of title XI [§§ 1101-1147 and 1171-1177] or title XVIII [§§ 1800-1899A] of Pub. L. 99-514 require an amendment to any plan, such plan amendment shall not be required to be made before the first plan year beginning on or after Jan. 1, 1989, see section 1140 of Pub. L. 99-514, as amended, set out as a note under section 401 of Title 26, Internal Revenue Code.

§ 300bb-6. Notice requirements

In accordance with regulations prescribed by the Secretary—

(1) the group health plan shall provide, at the time of commencement of coverage under the plan, written notice to each covered employee and spouse of the employee (if any) of the rights provided under this subsection,¹

(2) the employer of an employee under a plan must notify the plan administrator of a qualifying event described in paragraph (1), (2), or (4) of section 300bb-3 of this title within 30 days of the date of the qualifying event,

(3) each covered employee or qualified beneficiary is responsible for notifying the plan administrator of the occurrence of any qualifying event described in paragraph (3) or (5) of section 300bb-3 of this title within 60 days after the date of the qualifying event and each qualified beneficiary who is determined, under title II or XVI of the Social Security Act [42 U.S.C. 401 et seq., 1381 et seq.], to have been disabled at any time during the first 60 days of continuation coverage under this subchapter is responsible for notifying the plan administrator of such determination within 60 days after the date of the determination and for notifying the plan administrator within 30 days after the date of any final determination under such title or titles that the qualified beneficiary is no longer disabled, and

(4) the plan administrator shall notify—

(A) in the case of a qualifying event described in paragraph (1), (2), or (4) of section 300bb-3 of this title, any qualified beneficiary with respect to such event, and

(B) in the case of a qualifying event described in paragraph (3) or (5) of section 300bb-3 of this title where the covered employee notifies the plan administrator under paragraph (3), any qualified beneficiary with respect to such event,

of such beneficiary's rights under this subsection.¹

For purposes of paragraph (4), any notification shall be made within 14 days of the date on

which the plan administrator is notified under paragraph (2) or (3), whichever is applicable, and any such notification to an individual who is a qualified beneficiary as the spouse of the covered employee shall be treated as notification to all other qualified beneficiaries residing with such spouse at the time such notification is made.

(July 1, 1944, ch. 373, title XXII, § 2206, as added Pub. L. 99-272, title X, § 10003(a), Apr. 7, 1986, 100 Stat. 235; amended Pub. L. 99-514, title XVIII, § 1895(d)(6)(C), Oct. 22, 1986, 100 Stat. 2939; Pub. L. 100-203, title IV, § 4009(j)(8), Dec. 22, 1987, 101 Stat. 1330-59; Pub. L. 101-239, title VI, § 6702(c), Dec. 19, 1989, 103 Stat. 2295; Pub. L. 104-191, title IV, § 421(a)(2), Aug. 21, 1996, 110 Stat. 2088.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

The Social Security Act, referred to in par. (3), is act Aug. 14, 1935, ch. 531, 49 Stat. 620, as amended. Titles II and XVI of the Social Security Act are classified generally to subchapters II (§ 401 et seq.) and XVI (§ 1381 et seq.), respectively, of chapter 7 of this title. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see section 1305 of this title and Tables.

AMENDMENTS

1996—Par. (3). Pub. L. 104-191 substituted “at any time during the first 60 days of continuation coverage under this subchapter” for “at the time of a qualifying event described in section 300bb-3(2) of this title”.

1989—Par. (3). Pub. L. 101-239 inserted “and each qualified beneficiary who is determined, under title II or XVI of the Social Security Act, to have been disabled at the time of a qualifying event described in section 300bb-3(2) of this title is responsible for notifying the plan administrator of such determination within 60 days after the date of the determination and for notifying the plan administrator within 30 days after the date of any final determination under such title or titles that the qualified beneficiary is no longer disabled” after “date of the qualifying event”.

1987—Par. (3). Pub. L. 100-203 amended directory language of Pub. L. 99-514, see 1986 Amendment note below.

1986—Par. (3). Pub. L. 99-514, as amended by Pub. L. 100-203, inserted “within 60 days after the date of the qualifying event”.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1996 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 104-191 effective Jan. 1, 1997, regardless of whether the qualifying event occurred before, on, or after such date, see section 421(d) of Pub. L. 104-191, set out as a note under section 4980B of Title 26, Internal Revenue Code.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1989 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 101-239 applicable to plan years beginning on or after Dec. 19, 1989, regardless of whether the qualifying event occurred before, on, or after such date, see section 6702(d) of Pub. L. 101-239, set out as a note under section 300bb-2 of this title.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1987 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 100-203, title IV, § 4009(j)(8), Dec. 22, 1987, 101 Stat. 1330-59, provided that the amendment made by that section is effective as if included in Pub. L. 99-514.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1986 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 99-514 applicable only with respect to qualifying events occurring after Oct. 22, 1986, see section 1895(d)(6)(D) of Pub. L. 99-514, set out as a note under section 162 of Title 26, Internal Revenue Code.

NOTIFICATION TO COVERED EMPLOYEES

Pub. L. 99-272, title X, § 10003(c), Apr. 7, 1986, 100 Stat. 236, provided that: “At the time that the amendments

¹ So in original. Probably should be “subchapter”.

made by this section [enacting this subchapter] apply to a group health plan (covered under section 2201 of the Public Health Service Act [42 U.S.C. 300bb-1]), the plan shall notify each covered employee, and spouse of the employee (if any), who is covered under the plan at that time of the continuation coverage required under title XXII of such Act [42 U.S.C. 300bb-1 et seq.]. The notice furnished under this subsection is in lieu of notice that may otherwise be required under section 2206(1) of such Act [42 U.S.C. 300bb-6(1)] with respect to such individuals.”

§ 300bb-7. Enforcement

Any individual who is aggrieved by the failure of a State, political subdivision, or agency or instrumentality thereof, to comply with the requirements of this subchapter may bring an action for appropriate equitable relief.

(July 1, 1944, ch. 373, title XXII, §2207, as added Pub. L. 99-272, title X, §10003(a), Apr. 7, 1986, 100 Stat. 236.)

CONTINUED COVERAGE OF COSTS OF PEDIATRIC VACCINE UNDER CERTAIN GROUP HEALTH PLANS

Pub. L. 103-66, title XIII, §13631(d), Aug. 10, 1993, 107 Stat. 643, provided that:

“(1) REQUIREMENT.—The requirement of this paragraph, with respect to a group health plan for plan years beginning after the date of the enactment of this Act [Aug. 10, 1993], is that the group health plan not reduce its coverage of the costs of pediatric vaccines (as defined under section 1928(h)(6) of the Social Security Act [42 U.S.C. 1396s(h)(6)]) below the coverage it provided as of May 1, 1993.

“(2) ENFORCEMENT.—For purposes of section 2207 of the Public Health Service Act [42 U.S.C. 300bb-7], the requirement of paragraph (1) is deemed a requirement of title XXII of such Act [42 U.S.C. 300bb-1 et seq.]”

§ 300bb-8. Definitions

For purposes of this subchapter—

(1) Group health plan

The term “group health plan” has the meaning given such term in 5000(b)¹ of title 26. Such term shall not include any plan substantially all of the coverage under which is for qualified long-term care services (as defined in section 7702B(c) of title 26).

(2) Covered employee

The term “covered employee” means an individual who is (or was) provided coverage under a group health plan by virtue of the performance of services by the individual for 1 or more persons maintaining the plan (including as an employee defined in section 401(c)(1) of title 26).

(3) Qualified beneficiary

(A) In general

The term “qualified beneficiary” means, with respect to a covered employee under a group health plan, any other individual who, on the day before the qualifying event for that employee, is a beneficiary under the plan—

- (i) as the spouse of the covered employee, or
- (ii) as the dependent child of the employee.

Such term shall also include a child who is born to or placed for adoption with the covered employee during the period of continuation coverage under this subchapter.

(B) Special rule for terminations and reduced employment

In the case of a qualifying event described in section 300bb-3(2) of this title, the term “qualified beneficiary” includes the covered employee.

(4) Plan administrator

The term “plan administrator” has the meaning given the term “administrator” by section 1002(16)(A) of title 29.

(July 1, 1944, ch. 373, title XXII, §2208, as added Pub. L. 99-272, title X, §10003(a), Apr. 7, 1986, 100 Stat. 236; amended Pub. L. 100-647, title III, §3011(b)(7), Nov. 10, 1988, 102 Stat. 3625; Pub. L. 101-239, title VI, §6801(c)(1), Dec. 19, 1989, 103 Stat. 2297; Pub. L. 104-191, title I, §102(d), title III, §321(d)(3), title IV, §421(a)(3), Aug. 21, 1996, 110 Stat. 1978, 2059, 2088.)

AMENDMENTS

1996—Par. (1). Pub. L. 104-191, §321(d)(3), inserted at end “Such term shall not include any plan substantially all of the coverage under which is for qualified long-term care services (as defined in section 7702B(c) of title 26).”

Pub. L. 104-191, §102(d), substituted “5000(b)” for “section 162(i)(2)”.

Par. (3)(A). Pub. L. 104-191, §421(a)(3), inserted at end “Such term shall also include a child who is born to or placed for adoption with the covered employee during the period of continuation coverage under this subchapter.”

1989—Par. (2). Pub. L. 101-239 substituted “the performance of services by the individual for 1 or more persons maintaining the plan (including as an employee defined in section 401(c)(1) of title 26)” for “the individual’s employment or previous employment with an employer”.

1988—Par. (1). Pub. L. 100-647 substituted “section 162(i)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986” for “section 162(i)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954”, which for purposes of codification was translated as “section 162(i)(2) of title 26”.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1996 AMENDMENT

Amendment by section 321(d)(3) of Pub. L. 104-191 applicable to contracts issued after Dec. 31, 1996, see section 321(f) of Pub. L. 104-191, set out as an Effective Date note under section 7702B of Title 26, Internal Revenue Code.

Amendment by section 421(a)(3) of Pub. L. 104-191 effective Jan. 1, 1997, regardless of whether the qualifying event occurred before, on, or after such date, see section 421(d) of Pub. L. 104-191, set out as a note under section 4980B of Title 26.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1989 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 101-239, title VI, §6801(c)(2), Dec. 19, 1989, 103 Stat. 2298, provided that: “The amendment made by paragraph (1) [amending this section] shall apply to plan years beginning after December 31, 1989.”

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1988 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 100-647 applicable to taxable years beginning after Dec. 31, 1988, but not applicable to any plan for any plan year to which section 162(k) of Title 26, Internal Revenue Code (as in effect on the day before Nov. 10, 1988), did not apply by reason of section 10001(e)(2) of Pub. L. 99-272, see section 3011(d) of Pub. L. 100-647, set out as a note under section 162 of Title 26.

¹ So in original. Probably should be preceded by “section”.