

Pub. L. 110-233, §103(b), redesignated subsec. (c) as (f) relating to special rules for church plans.

1997—Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 105-34 added subsec. (c).

**EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2008 AMENDMENT**

Pub. L. 110-233, title I, §103(f)(2), May 21, 2008, 122 Stat. 899, provided that: “The amendments made by this section [enacting section 9834 of this title and amending this section and section 9832 of this title] shall apply with respect to group health plans for plan years beginning after the date that is 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act [May 21, 2008].”

**EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1997 AMENDMENT**

Pub. L. 105-34, title XV, §1532(b), Aug. 5, 1997, 111 Stat. 1085, provided that: “The amendments made by subsection (a) [amending this section] shall take effect as if included in the amendments made by section 401(a) of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 [Pub. L. 104-191].”

**REGULATIONS**

Pub. L. 110-233, title I, §103(f)(1), May 21, 2008, 122 Stat. 899, provided that: “The Secretary of the Treasury shall issue final regulations or other guidance not later than 12 months after the date of the enactment of this Act [May 21, 2008] to carry out the amendments made by this section [enacting section 9834 of this title and amending this section and section 9832 of this title].”

**§ 9803. Guaranteed renewability in multi-employer plans and certain multiple employer welfare arrangements**

**(a) In general**

A group health plan which is a multiemployer plan (as defined in section 414(f)) or which is a multiple employer welfare arrangement may not deny an employer continued access to the same or different coverage under such plan, other than—

- (1) for nonpayment of contributions;
- (2) for fraud or other intentional misrepresentation of material fact by the employer;
- (3) for noncompliance with material plan provisions;
- (4) because the plan is ceasing to offer any coverage in a geographic area;
- (5) in the case of a plan that offers benefits through a network plan, because there is no longer any individual enrolled through the employer who lives, resides, or works in the service area of the network plan and the plan applies this paragraph uniformly without regard to the claims experience of employers or a factor described in section 9802(a)(1) in relation to such individuals or their dependents; or
- (6) for failure to meet the terms of an applicable collective bargaining agreement, to renew a collective bargaining or other agreement requiring or authorizing contributions to the plan, or to employ employees covered by such an agreement.

**(b) Multiple employer welfare arrangement**

For purposes of subsection (a), the term “multiple employer welfare arrangement” has the meaning given such term by section 3(40) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, as in effect on the date of the enactment of this section.

(Added Pub. L. 104-191, title IV, §401(a), Aug. 21, 1996, 110 Stat. 2079.)

**REFERENCES IN TEXT**

Section 3(40) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, referred to in subsec. (b), is classified to section 1002(40) of Title 29, Labor.

The date of the enactment of this section, referred to in subsec. (b), is the date of enactment of Pub. L. 104-191, which was approved Aug. 21, 1996.

**[§ 9804. Renumbered § 9831]**

**[§ 9805. Renumbered § 9832]**

**[§ 9806. Renumbered § 9833]**

**Subchapter B—Other Requirements**

- |       |   |
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| 9811. | Standards relating to benefits for mothers and newborns.                |
| 9812. | Parity in mental health and substance use disorder benefits.            |
| 9813. | Coverage of dependent students on medically necessary leave of absence. |
| 9815. | Additional market reforms. <sup>1</sup>                                 |

**AMENDMENTS**

2008—Pub. L. 110-381, §2(c)(2), Oct. 9, 2008, 122 Stat. 4086, added item 9813.

Pub. L. 110-343, div. C, title V, §512(g)(3)(B), Oct. 3, 2008, 122 Stat. 3892, added item 9812 and struck out former item 9812 “Parity in the application of certain limits to mental health benefits”.

1997—Pub. L. 105-34, title XV, §1531(a)(4), Aug. 5, 1997, 111 Stat. 1081, added subchapter heading and analysis.

**§ 9811. Standards relating to benefits for mothers and newborns**

**(a) Requirements for minimum hospital stay following birth**

**(1) In general**

A group health plan may not—

- (A) except as provided in paragraph (2)—
  - (i) restrict benefits for any hospital length of stay in connection with childbirth for the mother or newborn child, following a normal vaginal delivery, to less than 48 hours, or
  - (ii) restrict benefits for any hospital length of stay in connection with childbirth for the mother or newborn child, following a caesarean section, to less than 96 hours; or

(B) require that a provider obtain authorization from the plan or the issuer for prescribing any length of stay required under subparagraph (A) (without regard to paragraph (2)).

**(2) Exception**

Paragraph (1)(A) shall not apply in connection with any group health plan in any case in which the decision to discharge the mother or her newborn child prior to the expiration of the minimum length of stay otherwise required under paragraph (1)(A) is made by an attending provider in consultation with the mother.

**(b) Prohibitions**

A group health plan may not—

<sup>1</sup> Editorially supplied. Section 9815 added by Pub. L. 111-148 without corresponding amendment of analysis. No section 9814 has been enacted.

(1) deny to the mother or her newborn child eligibility, or continued eligibility, to enroll or to renew coverage under the terms of the plan, solely for the purpose of avoiding the requirements of this section;

(2) provide monetary payments or rebates to mothers to encourage such mothers to accept less than the minimum protections available under this section;

(3) penalize or otherwise reduce or limit the reimbursement of an attending provider because such provider provided care to an individual participant or beneficiary in accordance with this section;

(4) provide incentives (monetary or otherwise) to an attending provider to induce such provider to provide care to an individual participant or beneficiary in a manner inconsistent with this section; or

(5) subject to subsection (c)(3), restrict benefits for any portion of a period within a hospital length of stay required under subsection (a) in a manner which is less favorable than the benefits provided for any preceding portion of such stay.

**(c) Rules of construction**

(1) Nothing in this section shall be construed to require a mother who is a participant or beneficiary—

(A) to give birth in a hospital; or

(B) to stay in the hospital for a fixed period of time following the birth of her child.

(2) This section shall not apply with respect to any group health plan which does not provide benefits for hospital lengths of stay in connection with childbirth for a mother or her newborn child.

(3) Nothing in this section shall be construed as preventing a group health plan from imposing deductibles, coinsurance, or other cost-sharing in relation to benefits for hospital lengths of stay in connection with childbirth for a mother or newborn child under the plan, except that such coinsurance or other cost-sharing for any portion of a period within a hospital length of stay required under subsection (a) may not be greater than such coinsurance or cost-sharing for any preceding portion of such stay.

**(d) Level and type of reimbursements**

Nothing in this section shall be construed to prevent a group health plan from negotiating the level and type of reimbursement with a provider for care provided in accordance with this section.

**(e) Preemption; exception for health insurance coverage in certain States**

The requirements of this section shall not apply with respect to health insurance coverage if there is a State law (including a decision, rule, regulation, or other State action having the effect of law) for a State that regulates such coverage that is described in any of the following paragraphs:

(1) Such State law requires such coverage to provide for at least a 48-hour hospital length of stay following a normal vaginal delivery and at least a 96-hour hospital length of stay following a caesarean section.

(2) Such State law requires such coverage to provide for maternity and pediatric care in ac-

cordance with guidelines established by the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, the American Academy of Pediatrics, or other established professional medical associations.

(3) Such State law requires, in connection with such coverage for maternity care, that the hospital length of stay for such care is left to the decision of (or required to be made by) the attending provider in consultation with the mother.

(Added Pub. L. 105-34, title XV, §1531(a)(4), Aug. 5, 1997, 111 Stat. 1081; amended Pub. L. 105-206, title VI, §6015(e), July 22, 1998, 112 Stat. 821.)

AMENDMENTS

1998—Subsecs. (e), (f). Pub. L. 105-206 redesignated subsec. (f) as (e).

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1998 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 105-206 effective, except as otherwise provided, as if included in the provisions of the Taxpayer Relief Act of 1997, Pub. L. 105-34, to which such amendment relates, see section 6024 of Pub. L. 105-206, set out as a note under section 1 of this title.

EFFECTIVE DATE

Subchapter applicable with respect to group health plans for plan years beginning on or after Jan. 1, 1998, see section 1531(c) of Pub. L. 105-34, set out as an Effective Date of 1997 Amendment note under section 4980D of this title.

**§ 9812. Parity in mental health and substance use disorder benefits**

**(a) In general**

**(1) Aggregate lifetime limits**

In the case of a group health plan that provides both medical and surgical benefits and mental health or substance use disorder benefits—

**(A) No lifetime limit**

If the plan does not include an aggregate lifetime limit on substantially all medical and surgical benefits, the plan may not impose any aggregate lifetime limit on mental health or substance use disorder benefits.

**(B) Lifetime limit**

If the plan includes an aggregate lifetime limit on substantially all medical and surgical benefits (in this paragraph referred to as the “applicable lifetime limit”), the plan shall either—

(i) apply the applicable lifetime limit both to the medical and surgical benefits to which it otherwise would apply and to mental health and substance use disorder benefits and not distinguish in the application of such limit between such medical and surgical benefits and mental health and substance use disorder benefits; or

(ii) not include any aggregate lifetime limit on mental health or substance use disorder benefits that is less than the applicable lifetime limit.

**(C) Rule in case of different limits**

In the case of a plan that is not described in subparagraph (A) or (B) and that includes no or different aggregate lifetime limits on