

ers, or individuals, as applicable,” for “small employers” in two places.

#### EFFECTIVE DATE

Section applicable with respect to group health plans, and health insurance coverage offered in connection with group health plans, for plan years beginning after June 30, 1997, except as otherwise provided, see section 102(c) of Pub. L. 104-191, set out as a note under section 300gg of this title.

#### SUBPART II—IMPROVING COVERAGE

A prior subpart 2, consisting of sections 300gg-4 to 300gg-7, related to other requirements, prior to repeal of the subpart designation and heading and transfer of sections 300gg-4 to 300gg-7 to 300gg-25 to 300gg-28, respectively, of this title by Pub. L. 111-148, title I, §§1001(2), 1563(c)(2), formerly §1562(c)(2), title X, §10107(b)(1), Mar. 23, 2010, 124 Stat. 130, 265, 911.

Another prior subpart 2, consisting of sections 300gg-11 to 300gg-13, related to provisions applicable only to health insurance issuers, was redesignated subpart 3 of this part by Pub. L. 104-204, title VI, §604(a)(2), Sept. 26, 1996, 110 Stat. 2939.

A prior subpart 3, consisting of sections 300gg-11 to 300gg-13, related to provisions applicable only to health insurance issuers, prior to repeal of the subpart designation and heading by Pub. L. 111-148, title I, §1563(c)(7), formerly §1562(c)(7), title X, §10107(b)(1), Mar. 23, 2010, 124 Stat. 266, 911.

A prior subpart 4, consisting of sections 300gg-21 to 300gg-23, which related to exclusion of plans, enforcement, and preemption, was redesignated subpart 2 of this part by Pub. L. 111-148, title I, §1563(c)(11), formerly §1562(c)(11), title X, §10107(b)(1), Mar. 23, 2010, 124 Stat. 268, 911.

#### § 300gg-11. No lifetime or annual limits

##### (a) Prohibition

###### (1) In general

A group health plan and a health insurance issuer offering group or individual health insurance coverage may not establish—

(A) lifetime limits on the dollar value of benefits for any participant or beneficiary; or

(B) except as provided in paragraph (2), annual limits on the dollar value of benefits for any participant or beneficiary.

###### (2) Annual limits prior to 2014

With respect to plan years beginning prior to January 1, 2014, a group health plan and a health insurance issuer offering group or individual health insurance coverage may only establish a restricted annual limit on the dollar value of benefits for any participant or beneficiary with respect to the scope of benefits that are essential health benefits under section 18022(b) of this title, as determined by the Secretary. In defining the term “restricted annual limit” for purposes of the preceding sentence, the Secretary shall ensure that access to needed services is made available with a minimal impact on premiums.

##### (b) Per beneficiary limits

Subsection (a) shall not be construed to prevent a group health plan or health insurance coverage from placing annual or lifetime per beneficiary limits on specific covered benefits that are not essential health benefits under section 18022(b) of this title, to the extent that such limits are otherwise permitted under Federal or State law.

(July 1, 1944, ch. 373, title XXVII, §2711, as added and amended Pub. L. 111-148, title I, §1001(5), title X, §10101(a), Mar. 23, 2010, 124 Stat. 131, 883.)

#### PRIOR PROVISIONS

A prior section 300gg-11, act July 1, 1944, ch. 373, title XXVII, §2711, as added Pub. L. 104-191, title I, §102(a), Aug. 21, 1996, 110 Stat. 1962, which related to guaranteed availability of coverage for employers in a group market, was renumbered section 2731 of act July 1, 1944, amended, and transferred to subssecs. (c) and (d) of section 300gg-1 of this title, by Pub. L. 111-148, title I, §§1001(3), 1563(c)(8), formerly §1562(c)(8), title X, §10107(b)(1), Mar. 23, 2010, 124 Stat. 130, 266, 911.

Another prior section 2711 of act July 1, 1944, was successively renumbered by subsequent acts and transferred, see section 238j of this title.

#### AMENDMENTS

2010—Pub. L. 111-148, §10101(a), amended section generally. Prior to amendment, text read as follows:

“(a) IN GENERAL.—A group health plan and a health insurance issuer offering group or individual health insurance coverage may not establish—

“(1) lifetime limits on the dollar value of benefits for any participant or beneficiary; or

“(2) unreasonable annual limits (within the meaning of section 223 of title 26) on the dollar value of benefits for any participant or beneficiary.

“(b) PER BENEFICIARY LIMITS.—Subsection (a) shall not be construed to prevent a group health plan or health insurance coverage that is not required to provide essential health benefits under section 18022(b) of this title from placing annual or lifetime per beneficiary limits on specific covered benefits to the extent that such limits are otherwise permitted under Federal or State law.”

#### EFFECTIVE DATE

Pub. L. 111-148, title I, §1004, Mar. 23, 2010, 124 Stat. 140, provided that:

“(a) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided for in subsection (b), this subtitle [subtitle A (§§1001-1004) of title I of Pub. L. 111-148, enacting this section and sections 300gg-12 to 300gg-15, 300gg-16 to 300gg-19, 300gg-93, and 300gg-94 of this title, amending former sections 300gg-11 and 300gg-12 of this title and sections 300gg-21 to 300gg-23 of this title, and transferring section 300gg-13 of this title to section 300gg-9 of this title and sections 300gg-4 to 300gg-7 of this title to sections 300gg-25 to 300gg-28 of this title, respectively] (and the amendments made by this subtitle) shall become effective for plan years beginning on or after the date that is 6 months after the date of enactment of this Act [Mar. 23, 2010], except that the amendments made by sections 1002 and 1003 [enacting sections 300gg-93 and 300gg-94 of this title] shall become effective for fiscal years beginning with fiscal year 2010.

“(b) SPECIAL RULE.—The amendments made by sections 1002 and 1003 [enacting sections 300gg-93 and 300gg-94 of this title] shall take effect on the date of enactment of this Act [Mar. 23, 2010].”

#### § 300gg-12. Prohibition on rescissions

A group health plan and a health insurance issuer offering group or individual health insurance coverage shall not rescind such plan or coverage with respect to an enrollee once the enrollee is covered under such plan or coverage involved, except that this section shall not apply to a covered individual who has performed an act or practice that constitutes fraud or makes an intentional misrepresentation of material fact as prohibited by the terms of the plan or coverage. Such plan or coverage may not be cancelled except with prior notice to the enrollee,