

836-053-XXXX

## Issuance of Group Health Benefit Plan to Employer Association

(1) As used in this rule, the term “employer association” refers to ~~a trade~~ an association or other group of employers that sponsors, or wishes to sponsor one or more, fully insured group health benefit plans ~~coverage~~ for its members, employees, or employees of its members. For purposes of this rule, the term does not include a labor union.

(2) A health insurance carrier may not issue a policy of group health benefit coverage to an employer association as the policyholder or offer coverage under such a policy, whether issued in this or another state, unless the Director of the Department of Consumer and Business Services determines that:

~~(a) The employer association would be allowed to act as the employer that sponsors the plan under federal law;~~

~~(a)~~ (b) The employer association meets the requirements of ORS 731.098 (2); and

~~(b)~~ (c) Issuance of the policy or coverage would be consistent with the requirements of this rule and the Insurance Code.

(3) A carrier ~~(or self-insured group?)~~ proposing to offer group health benefit coverage to ~~or through~~ an employer association must submit, in the form prescribed by the Director, the following information to the department’s Division of Financial Regulation for approval:

(a) A signed copy of the employer association’s current constitution, ~~and~~ bylaws, or comparable controlling documents.

(b) A statement describing the purpose of the employer association and demonstrating that the employer association is organized and will be maintained in good faith primarily for purposes other than that of obtaining insurance.

(c) A statement of membership requirements describing any requirements for an employer to become and remain a member of the employer association, including requirements related to participation in a particular trade, business or industry and any geographic requirements.

(A) If only a subset of the association’s employer-members will be eligible to participate in the group health benefit coverage ~~health plan~~, the statement of membership requirements must explain any additional requirements that an employer-member must satisfy in order to participate ~~in the health plan~~. For purposes of this rule, the term “working owner” means sole proprietors and other self-employed individuals who do not employ at least one common law employee.

(B) If membership in the employer association is limited to a particular trade, business or industry, the statement of membership requirements must define the trade, business, or industry served by the employer association and describe how the employer association ~~will~~ determines if the requirement is satisfied.

(d) A statement of eligibility (or in the case of an employer association offering industry-specific plans, statements) describing the types of individuals who will be eligible to enroll in the group health benefit coverage sponsored by the employer association, whether as a subscriber or as a dependent, and any terms or conditions for continued eligibility that will be set by the carrier or by the employer association.

(e) Evidence demonstrating that ~~a group health plan exists at~~ the employer association may sponsor the group health plan level in accordance with under section 3(5) of the Employee Retirement Income

Security Act of 1974, ~~specifically (29 U.S.C. Code § 1002(5))~~ and U.S. Department of Labor guidance. The filing must demonstrate that:

(A) ~~The employer association sponsoring and the individuals benefitting from the each group health benefit coverage offered by the association are~~ tied by a common economic or representational interest, or commonality of interest, beyond the provision of health insurance, including a description of the following: ~~and~~

i. How employer-members of the association are solicited;

ii. Eligibility criteria to participate in the employer association;

iii. Eligibility criteria to participate group health benefit coverage sponsored by the association;

iv. The process by which the employer association was formed;

v. The purpose for the formation of the employer association; and

vi. Preexisting relationships of any of the employer-members of the employer association.

(B) The members of the employer association that participate in the group health benefit coverage will exercise control, in both form and substance, over the administration and operation of the group health benefit coverage.

(f) Copies of the employer association's most recent Form 5500 and M-1 filings submitted to the U.S. Department of Labor or, if these materials are not available, an explanation of why they are not available.

(g) If the employer association will offer coverage to small employer-members, evidence demonstrating that the group health benefit coverage available to employees of small employers will provide coverage that is substantially equal to the essential health benefits adopted under ORS 731.097 at a minimum actuarial value of at least 60 percent. ~~(equivalent to a bronze plan as defined under 45 CFR § 156.140)~~

(h) Any additional information requested by the division.

(4) With respect to membership in the employer association or the ability to enroll in group health benefit coverage, no carrier, employer association, or employer-member of the association may discriminate against an individual on the basis of the individual's health status. This subsection does not prevent an employer association or carrier from charging different premium rates to different employer groups within the association, provided the methods used to establish each employer's premium rate are consistent with 45 CFR § 146.121.

~~(5) An employer association must not allow a "working owner" to enroll in group health benefit coverage sponsored by the association. For purposes of this rule, the term "working owner" means sole proprietors and other self-employed individuals who do not employ at least one common-law employee.~~

(5) At least annually, a health insurance carrier offering group health benefit coverage to an employer association must inform the division of changes to the information required under subsection (3) of this rule.

(6) If ~~an employer association that was approved to~~ a carrier was approved to offer group health benefit coverage to an employer association sponsor group health benefit coverage prior to the effective date of this rule, the requirements of this rule become effective on July 1, 2023~~the first date of annual renewal following the effective date of this rule~~. If an employer association cannot achieve compliance with the requirements of this rule by that date, the carrier offering coverage to the employer association may file a transition plan demonstrating how and when ~~the association will come into compliance~~ will be met with requirements that are not met. The division may allow a carrier to continue offering coverage pursuant to the terms of the transition plan for up to three years.

~~(8) As a condition of issuing group health benefit coverage to an employer association, a health insurance carrier may require the employer association to provide some or all of the materials described in subsections (3), (6), and (7) of this rule.~~

**Statutory/Other Authority:** 731.244, 743.524

**Statutes/Other Implemented:** ORS 731.098, 743.524

**History:**