



DOL Rules for Benefit Information and Coverage Requirements Delayed

On August 22nd 2011, the United States Department of Labor, Health and Human Services; along with The Treasury Department put forth a proposal that would establish rules for health insurance providers. This proposal is known as the Summary of Benefits and Coverage and Uniform Glossary requirements of PHS Act § 2715.

The proposed regulations set forth standards intended to help consumers better understand the coverage they have and easily compare coverage options.

A compliance deadline of March 23rd 2012 appears to be delayed based on information listed in recently posted Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) from the federal agencies charged with implementing the requirements.

According to these FAQs the federal agencies received “many comments on the proposed regulations and intend to issue, as soon as possible, final regulations that take into account these comments and other stakeholder feedback”.

These final regulations will include an applicability date that will give group health plans and health insurance issuers’ sufficient time to comply and that “until final regulations are issued and applicable, plans and issuers are not required to comply with PHS Act section 2715. “

As these federal agencies have not yet identified a specific applicability date, it is likely that the compliance deadline will be later than March 23, 2012.

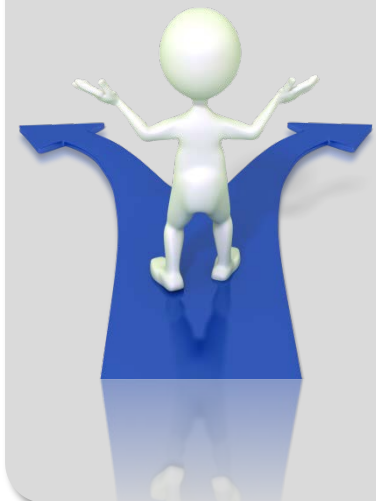
Spectra Management will post any updates as they become available.

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SPECTRA INSIGHT

SPECIAL UPDATE

Link to “FAQs About Affordable Care Act Implementation Part VII with the Department of Labor”:

<http://www.dol.gov/ebsa/faqs/fa-q-aca7.html>



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