

**513B.4 Restrictions relating to the premium rates.**

1. Premium rates for health benefit plans subject to [this subchapter](#) are subject to the following requirements:

a. The index rate for a rating period for any class of business shall not exceed the index rate for any other class of business by more than twenty percent.

b. For a class of business, the premium rates charged during a rating period to small employers with similar case characteristics for the same or similar coverage, or the rates which could be charged to such employers under the rating system for that class of business, shall not vary from the index rate by more than twenty-five percent of the index rate.

c. The percentage increase in the premium rate charged to a small employer for a new rating period shall not exceed the sum of the following:

(1) The percentage change in the new business premium rate measured from the first day of the prior rating period to the first day of the new rating period. In the case of a class of business for which the small employer carrier is not issuing new policies, the small employer carrier shall use the percentage change in the base premium rate, provided that the change does not exceed, on a percentage basis, the change in the new business premium rate for the most similar health insurance coverage into which the small employer carrier is actively enrolling new insureds who are small employers.

(2) An adjustment, not to exceed fifteen percent annually and adjusted pro rata for rating periods of less than one year, due to the claim experience, health status, or duration of coverage of the employees or dependents of the small employer as determined from the small employer carrier's rate manual for the class of business.

(3) Any adjustment due to change in coverage or change in the case characteristics of the small employer as determined from the small employer carrier's rate manual for the class of business.

d. Any adjustment in rates for claims experience, health status, and duration of coverage shall not be charged to individual employees or dependents. Any such adjustment shall be applied uniformly to the rates charged for all employees and dependents of the small employer.

2. a. [This section](#) does not affect the use by a small employer carrier of legitimate rating factors other than claim experience, health status, or duration of coverage in the determination of premium rates. Small employer carriers shall apply rating factors, including case characteristics, consistently with respect to all small employers in a class of business.

b. Case characteristics other than age, geographic area, family composition, and group size shall not be used by a small employer carrier without the prior approval of the commissioner.

c. Rating factors shall produce premiums for identical groups which differ only by amounts attributable to coverage design and do not reflect differences due to the nature of the groups assumed to select particular health benefit plans. A small employer carrier shall treat all health insurance coverages issued or renewed in the same calendar month as having the same rating period.

3. For purposes of [this section](#), a health insurance coverage that contains a restricted network provision shall not be considered similar coverage to a health insurance coverage that does not contain such a provision, if the restriction of benefits to network providers results in substantial differences in claims costs.

4. A small employer shall not be involuntarily transferred by a small employer carrier into or out of a class of business. A small employer carrier shall not offer to transfer a small employer into or out of a class of business unless the offer is made to transfer all small employers in the class of business without regard to case characteristics, claim experience, health status, or duration since issue.

5. Notwithstanding [subsection 1](#), the commissioner, with the concurrence of the board of the Iowa small employer health reinsurance program established in [section 513B.13](#), may by order reduce or eliminate the allowed rating bands provided under [subsection 1](#), paragraphs "a", "b", and "c", or otherwise limit or eliminate the use of experience rating.

6. Notwithstanding [subsection 4](#), a small employer carrier may offer to transfer a small employer into a different class of business with a lower index rate based upon claims experience, implementation of managed care or wellness programs, or health status improvement of the small employer since issue.

[91 Acts, ch 244, §4](#); [92 Acts, ch 1167, §3 – 7](#); [93 Acts, ch 80, §4](#); [94 Acts, ch 1176, §10 – 12](#); [97 Acts, ch 103, §14 – 17](#); [2001 Acts, ch 69, §14, 15, 39](#); [2002 Acts, ch 1111, §13](#); [2007 Acts, ch 57, §6, 8](#); [2012 Acts, ch 1023, §157](#)

Referred to in [§513B.2](#), [513B.4A](#), [513B.13](#), [513B.17](#)