

191—71.2(513B) Definitions. As used in this chapter:

“Associate member of an employee organization” means any individual who participates in an employee benefit plan (as defined in 29 U.S.C. 1002(1)) that is a multiemployer plan (as defined in 29 U.S.C. 1002(37A)), other than the following:

1. An individual (or the beneficiary of such individual) who is employed by a participating employer within a bargaining unit covered by at least one of the collective bargaining agreements under or pursuant to which the employee benefit plan is established or maintained; or
2. An individual who is a present or former employee (or a beneficiary of such employee) of the sponsoring employee organization, of an employer who is or was a party to at least one of the collective bargaining agreements under or pursuant to which the employee benefit plan is established or maintained, or of the employee benefit plan (or of a related plan).

“Beneficiary” has the meaning given the term under Section 3(8) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA), which states, “a person designated by a participant, or by the terms of an employee benefit plan, who is or may become entitled to a benefit” under the plan.

“Bona fide association” means, with respect to group health insurance coverage offered in Iowa, an association that meets the following conditions:

1. Has been actively in existence for at least five years.
2. Has been formed and maintained in good faith for purposes other than obtaining insurance.
3. Does not condition membership in the association on any health status-related factor relating to an individual including an employee of an employer or a dependent of any employee.
4. Makes health insurance coverage offered through the association available to all members regardless of any health status-related factor relating to the members or individuals eligible for coverage through a member.
5. Does not make health insurance coverage offered through the association available other than in connection with a member of the association.

“COBRA” means Title X of the Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1985, as amended.

“Continuation coverage” means coverage under a COBRA continuation provision or a similar state program. Coverage provided by a plan that is subject to a COBRA continuation provision or similar state program, but that does not satisfy all the requirements of that provision or program, will be deemed to be continuation coverage if it allows an individual to elect to continue coverage for a period of at least 18 months. Continuation coverage does not include coverage under a conversion policy required to be offered to an individual upon exhaustion of continuation coverage, nor does it include continuation coverage under the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program.

“Creditable coverage” includes short-term limited duration insurance.

“Director” means the director of public health appointed pursuant to Iowa Code section 135.2.

“Employee” means any individual employed by an employer.

“Enrollment date” means the first day of coverage or, if there is a waiting period, the first day of the waiting period.

“Exhaustion of continuation coverage” means that an individual’s continuation coverage ceases for any reason other than either failure of the individual to pay premiums on a timely basis, or for cause such as making a fraudulent claim or an intentional misrepresentation of a material fact in connection with the plan. An individual is considered to have exhausted continuation coverage if:

1. Coverage ceases due to the failure of the employer or other responsible entity to remit premiums on a timely basis, or
2. When the individual no longer resides, lives, or works in a service area of an HMO or similar program, whether or not within the choice of the individual, and there is no other continuation coverage available to the individual.

“Health insurance coverage” does not include the following:

1. Flexible spending accounts.
2. Short-term limited duration insurance.
3. Stop loss insurance coverage.

“Health maintenance organization” or *“HMO”* means a federally qualified health maintenance organization as defined in Section 1301(a) of the Public Health Services Act or an organization licensed under Iowa Code section 514.5.

“Late enrollee” means an individual, other than one who enrolls during a special enrollment period, who enrolls under a health benefit plan or health insurance coverage in connection with which it is issued, other than during the first period in which the individual is eligible to enroll under terms of the health benefit plan or group health plan.

“Network plan” means health insurance coverage of a health insurance issuer under which the financing and delivery of medical care including items and services paid for as medical care are provided, in whole or in part, through a defined set of providers under contract with the carrier.

“New entrant” means an eligible employee, or the dependent of an eligible employee, who becomes part of an employer group after the initial period for enrollment in health insurance coverage.

“Plan year” means the year that is designated as the plan year in the plan document of a group health plan, except that if the plan document does not designate a plan year or if there is no plan document, the plan year is:

1. The deductible/limit year used under the plan.
2. If the plan does not impose deductibles or limits on a yearly basis, the plan year is the policy year.
3. If the plan does not impose deductibles or limits on a yearly basis, and either the plan is not insured or the insurance policy is not renewed on an annual basis, the plan year is the employer’s taxable year.

“Preexisting condition exclusion” means, with respect to health insurance coverage, a limitation or exclusion of benefits relating to a condition based on the fact that the condition was present before the date of enrollment for such coverage, whether or not any medical advice, diagnosis, care, or treatment was recommended or received before such date. A preexisting condition exclusion includes any exclusion applicable to an individual as a result of information that is obtained relating to an individual’s health status before the individual’s first day of coverage, such as a condition identified as a result of a preenrollment questionnaire or physical examination given to the individual, or review of medical records relating to the preenrollment period.

“Risk characteristic” means the health status, claims experience, duration of coverage, or any similar characteristic related to the health status or experience of a small employer group or of any member of a small employer group.

“Risk load” means the percentage above the applicable base premium rate that is charged by a small employer carrier to a small employer to reflect the risk characteristics of the small employer group.

“Short-term limited duration insurance” means health insurance coverage provided under a contract with a carrier that has an expiration date specified in the contract, taking into account any extensions that may be elected by the policyholder without the carrier’s consent, that is, within 12 months of the date the contract becomes effective.

“Significant break in coverage” means a period of 63 consecutive days during all of which the individual does not have any creditable coverage, except that neither a waiting period nor an affiliation period is taken into account in determining a significant break in coverage.

“Special enrollment period” means a period other than the first period in which an eligible employee or a dependent is eligible to enroll under the terms of group health insurance coverage in connection with which it is issued, without regard to other enrollment periods defined under the health insurance coverage.

“Waiting period” means, with respect to group health insurance coverage and an eligible employee or a dependent who is potentially eligible for coverage under the plan, the period that must pass with respect to the individual before the individual is eligible to be covered for benefits under the terms of the plan.

Other terms shall be defined pursuant to Iowa Code chapter 513B.

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