



May 14, 2015

ANNOUNCEMENT

SELECTION OF ESSENTIAL HEALTH BENEFITS BENCHMARK PLAN FOR 2017

The DC Health Benefit Exchange Authority (HBX) announces that the HBX Standing Advisory Board (SAB) on May 21, 2015 at 3:00 p.m. will accept public input on the selection of the Essential Health Benefits (EHB) benchmark plan for plan year 2017. The meeting will be held in the HBX office, 1225 I St. NW, 4th floor, Board Conference Room. People can also join by phone by calling 1-877-668-4493; access code 738 905 618.

All small group and individual health insurance policies sold in the District must include benefits in the essential health benefits benchmark plan (Link: [here](#)). In addition, based on stakeholder working group's recommendations, and in collaboration with the Department of Insurance, Securities and Banking (DISB), the HBX Board adopted policies in 2013 to clarify benefit requirements: no day or visit limits on behavioral health inpatient and outpatient services; drug formularies consistent with federal regulations; and no substitution of benefits. The resolution can be viewed [here](#). A second resolution was also enacted that clarified the definition of habilitation services within the EHB benchmark plan. It can be viewed [here](#).

CCIIO announced that 2017 EHB benchmark plans should be selected soon The District must make its selection by June 30, 2015.

A state can select the 2017 benchmark plan from any of the following options from the 2014 plan year:

1. The largest health plan by enrollment in any of the three largest small group insurance products by enrollment;
2. Any of the largest three employee health benefit plan options by enrollment offered and generally available to State employees;

3. Any of the largest three national Federal Employees Health Benefits Program (FEHBP) plan options by aggregate enrollment; or
4. The coverage plan with the largest insured commercial non-Medicaid enrollment offered by a health maintenance organization operating in the State.

Per federal regulations, if a state does not choose a benchmark plan, the benchmark plan in that state will default to the largest plan by enrollment in the largest product by enrollment in the State's small group market.

HBX staff is developing a chart summarizing options. These materials will be posted on the HBX website.

Interested stakeholders may comment in person at the meeting on May 21, or may submit comments electronically. Any written comments should be sent to Mary Beth Senkewicz, Supervisory Attorney at HBX, at marybethe.senkewicz@dc.gov.