House Bill 4156

Sponsored by Representatives DOHERTY, MALSTROM (Presession filed.)

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor’s brief statement of the essential features of the measure as introduced.

Prohibits carriers offering health benefit plans from making specified changes to prescription drug coverage during plan year.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

Relating to prescription drug coverage by health benefit plans; amending ORS 743B.013, 743B.105 and 743B.125.

Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:

SECTION 1. ORS 743B.013 is amended to read:

743B.013. (1) A health benefit plan issued to a small employer:

(a) Other than a grandfathered health plan, must cover essential health benefits consistent with 42 U.S.C. 300gg-11.

(b) May require an affiliation period that does not exceed two months for an enrollee or 90 days for a late enrollee.

(c) May not apply a preexisting condition exclusion to any enrollee.

(2) Late enrollees in a small employer health benefit plan may be subjected to a group eligibility waiting period that does not exceed 90 days.

(3) Each small employer health benefit plan is renewable with respect to all eligible enrollees at the option of the policyholder, small employer or contract holder unless:

(a) The policyholder, small employer or contract holder fails to pay the required premiums.

(b) The policyholder, small employer or contract holder or, with respect to coverage of individual enrollees, an enrollee or a representative of an enrollee engages in fraud or makes an intentional misrepresentation of a material fact as prohibited by the terms of the plan.

(c) The number of enrollees covered under the plan is less than the number or percentage of enrollees required by participation requirements under the plan.

(d) The small employer fails to comply with the contribution requirements under the health benefit plan.

(e) The carrier discontinues both offering and renewing all of the carrier’s small employer health benefit plans in this state or in a specified service area within this state. In order to discontinue plans under this paragraph, the carrier:

(A) Must give notice of the decision to the Department of Consumer and Business Services and to all policyholders covered by the plans;

(B) May not cancel coverage under the plans for 180 days after the date of the notice required under subparagraph (A) of this paragraph if coverage is discontinued in the entire state or in a specified service area, except that:

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter [*italic and bracketed*] is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

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(i) The carrier shall cancel coverage in accordance with subparagraph (C) of this paragraph if
the cancellation is for a specified service area in the circumstances described in subparagraph (C)
of this paragraph; and

(ii) The Director of the Department of Consumer and Business Services may specify a cancella-
tion date other than the cancellation date specified in this subparagraph if the carrier is subject to
a delinquency proceeding, as defined in ORS 734.014; and

(C) May not cancel coverage under the plans for 90 days after the date of the notice required
under subparagraph (A) of this paragraph if coverage is discontinued in a specified service area
because of an inability to reach an agreement with the health care providers or organization of
health care providers to provide services under the plans within the service area.

(f) The carrier discontinues both offering and renewing a small employer health benefit plan in
a specified service area within this state because of an inability to reach an agreement with the
health care providers or organization of health care providers to provide services under the plan
within the service area. In order to discontinue a plan under this paragraph, the carrier:

(A) Must give notice to the department and to all policyholders covered by the plan;

(B) May not cancel coverage under the plan for 90 days after the date of the notice required
under subparagraph (A) of this paragraph; and

(C) Must offer in writing to each small employer covered by the plan, all other small employer
health benefit plans that the carrier offers to small employers in the specified service area. The
carrier shall issue any such plans pursuant to the provisions of ORS 743B.010 to 743B.013. The
carrier shall offer the plans at least 90 days prior to discontinuation.

(g) The carrier discontinues both offering and renewing a health benefit plan, other than a
grandfathered health plan, for all small employers in this state or in a specified service area within
this state, other than a plan discontinued under paragraph (f) of this subsection.

(h) The carrier discontinues both offering and renewing a grandfathered health plan for all small
employers in this state or in a specified service area within this state, other than a plan discontinu-
ed under paragraph (f) of this subsection.

(i) With respect to plans that are being discontinued under paragraph (g) or (h) of this sub-
section, the carrier must:

(A) Offer in writing to each small employer covered by the plan, all other health benefit plans
that the carrier offers to small employers in the specified service area.

(B) Issue any such plans pursuant to the provisions of ORS 743B.010 to 743B.013.

(C) Offer the plans at least 90 days prior to discontinuation.

(D) Act uniformly without regard to the claims experience of the affected policyholders or the
health status of any current or prospective enrollee.

(j) The Director of the Department of Consumer and Business Services orders the carrier to
discontinue coverage in accordance with procedures specified or approved by the director upon
finding that the continuation of the coverage would:

(A) Not be in the best interests of the enrollees; or

(B) Impair the carrier’s ability to meet contractual obligations.

(k) In the case of a small employer health benefit plan that delivers covered services through
a specified network of health care providers, there is no longer any enrollee who lives, resides or
works in the service area of the provider network.

(L) In the case of a health benefit plan that is offered in the small employer market only to one
or more bona fide associations, the membership of an employer in the association ceases and the

[2]
(4) A carrier may modify a small employer health benefit plan at the time of coverage renewal. The modification is not a discontinuation of the plan under subsection (3)(e), (g) and (h) of this section.

(5) Notwithstanding any provision of subsection (3) of this section to the contrary, a carrier may not rescind the coverage of an enrollee in a small employer health benefit plan unless:

(a) The enrollee or a person seeking coverage on behalf of the enrollee:
   (A) Performs an act, practice or omission that constitutes fraud; or
   (B) Makes an intentional misrepresentation of a material fact as prohibited by the terms of the plan;

(b) The carrier provides at least 30 days' advance written notice, in the form and manner prescribed by the department, to the enrollee; and

(c) The carrier provides notice of the rescission to the department in the form, manner and time frame prescribed by the department by rule.

(6) Notwithstanding any provision of subsection (3) of this section to the contrary, a carrier may not rescind a small employer health benefit plan unless:

(a) The small employer or a representative of the small employer:
   (A) Performs an act, practice or omission that constitutes fraud; or
   (B) Makes an intentional misrepresentation of a material fact as prohibited by the terms of the plan;

(b) The carrier provides at least 30 days' advance written notice, in the form and manner prescribed by the department, to each plan enrollee who would be affected by the rescission of coverage; and

(c) The carrier provides notice of the rescission to the department in the form, manner and time frame prescribed by the department by rule.

(7)(a) A carrier may continue to enforce reasonable employer participation and contribution requirements on small employers. However, participation and contribution requirements shall be applied uniformly among all small employer groups with the same number of eligible employees applying for coverage or receiving coverage from the carrier. In determining minimum participation requirements, a carrier shall count only those employees who are not covered by an existing group health benefit plan, Medicaid, Medicare, TRICARE, Indian Health Service or a publicly sponsored or subsidized health plan, including but not limited to the medical assistance program under ORS chapter 414.

(b) A carrier may not deny a small employer's application for coverage under a health benefit plan based on participation or contribution requirements but may require small employers that do not meet participation or contribution requirements to enroll during the open enrollment period beginning November 15 and ending December 15.

(8) Premium rates for small employer health benefit plans, except grandfathered health plans, are subject to the following provisions:

(a) Each carrier must file with the department the initial geographic average rate and any changes in the geographic average rate with respect to each health benefit plan issued by the carrier to small employers.

(b)(A) The variations in premium rates charged during a rating period for health benefit plans issued to small employers must be based solely on the factors specified in subparagraph (B) of this paragraph. A carrier may elect which of the factors specified in subparagraph (B) of this paragraph
apply to premium rates for health benefit plans for small employers. All other factors must be applied in the same actuarially sound way to all small employer health benefit plans.

(B) The variations in premium rates described in subparagraph (A) of this paragraph may be based only on one or more of the following factors as prescribed by the department by rule:

(i) The ages of enrolled employees and their dependents, except that the rate for adults may not vary by more than three to one;

(ii) The level at which enrolled employees and dependents of enrolled employees engage in tobacco use, except that the rate may not vary by more than 1.5 to one; and

(iii) Adjustments to reflect differences in family composition.

(C) A carrier shall apply the carrier's schedule of premium rate variations as approved by the department and in accordance with this paragraph. Except as otherwise provided in this section, the premium rate established by a carrier for a small employer health benefit plan applies uniformly to all employees of the small employer enrolled in that plan.

(c) Except as provided in paragraph (b) of this subsection, the variation in premium rates between different health benefit plans offered by a carrier to small employers must be based solely on objective differences in plan design or coverage, age, tobacco use and family composition and must not include differences based on the risk characteristics of groups assumed to select a particular health benefit plan.

(d) A carrier may not increase the rates of a health benefit plan issued to a small employer more than once in a 12-month period. Annual rate increases are effective on the plan anniversary date of the health benefit plan issued to a small employer. The percentage increase in the premium rate charged to a small employer for a new rating period may not exceed the sum of the following:

(A) The percentage change in the geographic average rate measured from the first day of the prior rating period to the first day of the new period; and

(B) Any adjustment attributable to changes in age and differences in family composition.

(9) Premium rates for grandfathered health plans are subject to requirements prescribed by the department by rule.

(10) In connection with the offering for sale of any health benefit plan to a small employer, each carrier shall make a reasonable disclosure as part of the carrier's solicitation and sales materials of:

(a) The full array of health benefit plans that are offered to small employers by the carrier;

(b) The authority of the carrier to adjust rates and premiums, and the extent to which the carrier considers age, tobacco use, family composition and geographic factors in establishing and adjusting rates and premiums; and

(c) The benefits and premiums for all health insurance coverage for which the employer is qualified.

(11)(a) Each carrier shall maintain at the carrier's principal place of business a complete and detailed description of the carrier's rating practices and renewal underwriting practices relating to the carrier's small employer health benefit plans, including information and documentation that demonstrate that the carrier's rating methods and practices are based upon commonly accepted actuarial practices and are in accordance with sound actuarial principles.

(b) A carrier offering a small employer health benefit plan shall file with the department at least once every 12 months an actuarial certification that the carrier is in compliance with ORS 743B.010 to 743B.013 and that the rating methods of the carrier are actuarially sound. Each certification must be in a uniform form and manner and must contain such information as specified by the department.
The carrier shall retain a copy of each certification at the carrier’s principal place of business. A carrier is not required to file the actuarial certification under this paragraph if the department has approved the carrier’s rate filing within the preceding 12-month period.

(c) A carrier shall make the information and documentation described in paragraph (a) of this subsection available to the department upon request. Except as provided in ORS 743.018 and except in cases of violations of ORS 743B.010 to 743B.013, the information is proprietary and trade secret information and is not subject to disclosure to persons outside the department except as agreed to by the carrier or as ordered by a court of competent jurisdiction.

(12) A carrier may not provide any financial or other incentive to any insurance producer that would encourage the insurance producer to sell health benefit plans of the carrier to small employer groups based on a small employer group’s anticipated claims experience.

(13) For purposes of this section, the date a small employer health benefit plan is continued is the anniversary date of the first issuance of the health benefit plan.

(14) A carrier shall include a provision that offers coverage to all eligible employees of a small employer and to all dependents of the eligible employees to the extent the employer chooses to offer coverage to dependents.

(15) All small employer health benefit plans must contain special enrollment periods during which eligible employees and dependents may enroll for coverage, as provided by federal law and rules adopted by the department.

(16) A small employer health benefit plan may not impose annual or lifetime limits on the dollar amount of essential health benefits.

(17) A carrier that offers a small employer health benefit plan that reimburses the costs of prescription drugs sold by a retail pharmacy or administered by a health care provider may not, during a plan year:

(a) Remove a prescription drug from a prescription drug formulary, except in response to an alert issued by the United States Food and Drug Administration;

(b) Increase the deductible, copayment, coinsurance or other cost sharing applicable to a prescription drug unless an A-rated generic for the prescription drug is added to a formulary before the increase becomes effective; or

(c) Impose new utilization controls on a prescription drug, including but not limited to prior authorization or step therapy.

(18) Subsection (17) of this section does not prohibit a carrier, during a plan year, from:

(a) Adding to a prescription drug formulary a prescription drug newly approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration;

(b) Reducing a deductible, copayment, coinsurance or other cost sharing applicable to a prescription drug; or

(c) Eliminating one or more utilization controls applicable to a prescription drug.

SECTION 2. ORS 743B.105 is amended to read:

743B.105. The following requirements apply to all group health benefit plans other than small employer health benefit plans covering two or more certificate holders:

(1) A carrier offering a group health benefit plan may not decline to offer coverage to any eligible prospective enrollee and may not impose different terms or conditions on the coverage, premiums or contributions of any enrollee in the group that are based on the actual or expected health status of the enrollee.

(2) A group health benefit plan may not apply a preexisting condition exclusion to any enrollee
but may impose:

(a) An affiliation period that does not exceed two months for an enrollee or three months for a late enrollee; or

(b) A group eligibility waiting period for late enrollees that does not exceed 90 days.

(3) Each group health benefit plan shall contain a special enrollment period during which eligible employees and dependents may enroll for coverage, as provided by federal law and rules adopted by the Department of Consumer and Business Services.

(4)(a) A carrier shall issue to a group any of the carrier’s group health benefit plans offered by the carrier for which the group is eligible, if the group applies for the plan, agrees to make the required premium payments and agrees to satisfy the other requirements of the plan.

(b) The department may waive the requirements of this subsection if the department finds that issuing a plan to a group or groups would endanger the carrier’s ability to fulfill the carrier’s contractual obligations or result in financial impairment of the carrier.

(5) Each group health benefit plan shall be renewable with respect to all eligible enrollees at the option of the policyholder unless:

(a) The policyholder fails to pay the required premiums.

(b) The policyholder or, with respect to coverage of individual enrollees, an enrollee or a representative of an enrollee engages in fraud or makes an intentional misrepresentation of a material fact as prohibited by the terms of the plan.

(c) The number of enrollees covered under the plan is less than the number or percentage of enrollees required by participation requirements under the plan.

(d) The policyholder fails to comply with the contribution requirements under the plan.

(e) The carrier discontinues both offering and renewing, all of the carrier’s group health benefit plans in this state or in a specified service area within this state. In order to discontinue plans under this paragraph, the carrier:

(A) Must give notice of the decision to the department and to all policyholders covered by the plans;

(B) May not cancel coverage under the plans for 180 days after the date of the notice required under subparagraph (A) of this paragraph if coverage is discontinued in the entire state or in a specified service area, except that:

(i) The carrier shall cancel coverage in accordance with subparagraph (C) of this paragraph if the cancellation is for a specified service area in the circumstances described in subparagraph (C) of this paragraph; and

(ii) The Director of the Department of Consumer and Business Services may specify a cancellation date other than the cancellation date specified in this subparagraph if the carrier is subject to a delinquency proceeding, as defined in ORS 734.014; and

(C) May not cancel coverage under the plans for 90 days after the date of the notice required under subparagraph (A) of this paragraph if coverage is discontinued in a specified service area because of an inability to reach an agreement with the health care providers or organization of health care providers to provide services under the plans within the service area.

(f) The carrier discontinues both offering and renewing a group health benefit plan in a specified service area within this state because of an inability to reach an agreement with the health care providers or organization of health care providers to provide services under the plan within the service area. In order to discontinue a plan under this paragraph, the carrier:

(A) Must give notice of the decision to the department and to all policyholders covered by the
(B) May not cancel coverage under the plan for 90 days after the date of the notice required under subparagraph (A) of this paragraph; and

(C) Must offer in writing to each policyholder covered by the plan, all other group health benefit plans that the carrier offers in the specified service area. The carrier shall offer the plans at least 90 days prior to discontinuation.

(g) The carrier discontinues both offering and renewing a group health benefit plan, other than a grandfathered health plan, for all groups in this state or in a specified service area within this state, other than a plan discontinued under paragraph (f) of this subsection.

(h) The carrier discontinues both offering and renewing a grandfathered health plan for all groups in this state or in a specified service area within this state, other than a plan discontinued under paragraph (f) of this subsection.

(i) With respect to plans that are being discontinued under paragraph (g) or (h) of this subsection, the carrier must:

(A) Offer in writing to each policyholder covered by the plan, one or more health benefit plans that the carrier offers to groups in the specified service area.

(B) Offer the plans at least 90 days prior to discontinuation.

(C) Act uniformly without regard to the claims experience of the affected policyholders or the health status of any current or prospective enrollee.

(j) The director orders the carrier to discontinue coverage in accordance with procedures specified or approved by the director upon finding that the continuation of the coverage would:

(A) Not be in the best interests of the enrollees; or

(B) Impair the carrier’s ability to meet contractual obligations.

(k) In the case of a group health benefit plan that delivers covered services through a specified network of health care providers, there is no longer any enrollee who lives, resides or works in the service area of the provider network.

(L) In the case of a health benefit plan that is offered in the group market only to one or more bona fide associations, the membership of an employer in the association ceases and the termination of coverage is not related to the health status of any enrollee.

(6) A carrier may modify a group health benefit plan at the time of coverage renewal. The modification is not a discontinuation of the plan under subsection (5)(e), (g) and (h) of this section.

(7) Notwithstanding any provision of subsection (5) of this section to the contrary, a carrier may not rescind the coverage of an enrollee under a group health benefit plan unless:

(a) The enrollee:

(A) Performs an act, practice or omission that constitutes fraud; or

(B) Makes an intentional misrepresentation of a material fact as prohibited by the terms of the plan;

(b) The carrier provides at least 30 days’ advance written notice, in the form and manner prescribed by the department, to the enrollee; and

(c) The carrier provides notice of the rescission to the department in the form, manner and time frame prescribed by the department by rule.

(8) Notwithstanding any provision of subsection (5) of this section to the contrary, a carrier may not rescind a group health benefit plan unless:

(a) The plan sponsor or a representative of the plan sponsor:

(A) Performs an act, practice or omission that constitutes fraud; or
(B) Makes an intentional misrepresentation of a material fact as prohibited by the terms of the plan;

(b) The carrier provides at least 30 days’ advance written notice, in the form and manner prescribed by the department, to each plan enrollee who would be affected by the rescission of coverage; and

c) The carrier provides notice of the rescission to the department in the form, manner and time frame prescribed by the department by rule.

(9) A group health benefit plan may not impose annual or lifetime limits on the dollar amount of essential health benefits.

(10) A carrier that offers a group health benefit plan that reimburses the costs of prescription drugs sold by a retail pharmacy or administered by a health care provider may not, during a plan year:

(a) Remove a prescription drug from a prescription drug formulary, except in response to an alert issued by the United States Food and Drug Administration;

(b) Increase the deductible, copayment, coinsurance or other cost sharing applicable to a prescription drug unless an A-rated generic for the prescription drug is added to a formulary before the increase becomes effective; or

(c) Impose new utilization controls on a prescription drug, including but not limited to prior authorization or step therapy.

(11) Subsection (10) of this section does not prohibit a carrier, during a plan year, from:

(a) Adding to a prescription drug formulary a prescription drug newly approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration;

(b) Reducing a deductible, copayment, coinsurance or other cost sharing applicable to a prescription drug; or

(c) Eliminating one or more utilization controls applicable to a prescription drug.

**SECTION 3.** ORS 743B.125 is amended to read:

743B.125. (1) With respect to coverage under an individual health benefit plan, a carrier may not impose an individual coverage waiting period.

(2) With respect to individual coverage under a grandfathered health plan, a carrier:

(a) May impose an exclusion period for specified covered services applicable to all individuals enrolling for the first time in the individual health benefit plan.

(b) May not impose a preexisting condition exclusion unless the exclusion complies with the following requirements:

(A) The exclusion applies only to a condition for which medical advice, diagnosis, care or treatment was recommended or received during the six-month period immediately preceding the individual’s effective date of coverage.

(B) The exclusion expires no later than six months after the individual’s effective date of coverage.

(3) An individual health benefit plan other than a grandfathered health plan must cover, at a minimum, all essential health benefits.

(4) A carrier shall renew an individual health benefit plan, including a health benefit plan issued through a bona fide association, unless:

(a) The policyholder fails to pay the required premiums.

(b) The policyholder or a representative of the policyholder engages in fraud or makes an intentional misrepresentation of a material fact as prohibited by the terms of the policy.
(c) The carrier discontinues both offering and renewing all of the carrier’s individual health
benefit plans in this state or in a specified service area within this state. In order to discontinue the
plans under this paragraph, the carrier:

(A) Shall give notice of the decision to the Department of Consumer and Business Services and
to all policyholders covered by the plans;

(B) May not cancel coverage under the plans for 180 days after the date of the notice required
under subparagraph (A) of this paragraph if coverage is discontinued in the entire state or in a
specified service area, except that:

(i) The carrier shall cancel coverage in accordance with subparagraph (C) of this paragraph if
the cancellation is for a specified service area in the circumstances described in subparagraph (C)
of this paragraph; and

(ii) The Director of the Department of Consumer and Business Services may specify a cancella-
tion date other than the cancellation date specified in this subparagraph if the carrier is subject to
a delinquency proceeding, as defined in ORS 734.014; and

(C) May not cancel coverage under the plans for 90 days after the date of the notice required
under subparagraph (A) of this paragraph if coverage is discontinued in a specified service area
because of an inability to reach an agreement with the health care providers or organization of
health care providers to provide services under the plans within the service area.

(d) The carrier discontinues both offering and renewing an individual health benefit plan in a
specified service area within this state because of an inability to reach an agreement with the health
care providers or organization of health care providers to provide services under the plan within the
service area. In order to discontinue a plan under this paragraph, the carrier:

(A) Shall give notice of the decision to the department and to all policyholders covered by the
plan;

(B) May not cancel coverage under the plan for 90 days after the date of the notice required
under subparagraph (A) of this paragraph; and

(C) Shall offer in writing to each policyholder covered by the plan, all other individual health
benefit plans that the carrier offers in the specified service area. The carrier shall offer the plans
at least 90 days prior to discontinuation.

(e) The carrier discontinues both offering and renewing an individual health benefit plan, other
than a grandfathered health plan, for all individuals in this state or in a specified service area
within this state, other than a plan discontinued under paragraph (d) of this subsection.

(f) The carrier discontinues both offering and renewing a grandfathered health plan for all indi-
viduals in this state or in a specified service area within this state, other than a plan discontinued
under paragraph (d) of this subsection.

(g) With respect to plans that are being discontinued under paragraph (e) or (f) of this sub-
section, the carrier shall:

(A) Offer in writing to each policyholder covered by the plan, all health benefit plans that the
carrier offers to individuals in the specified service area.

(B) Offer the plans at least 90 days prior to discontinuation.

(C) Act uniformly without regard to the claims experience of the affected policyholders or the
health status of any current or prospective enrollee.

(h) The Director of the Department of Consumer and Business Services orders the carrier to
discontinue coverage in accordance with procedures specified or approved by the director upon
finding that the continuation of the coverage would:
(A) Not be in the best interests of the enrollee; or
(B) Impair the carrier’s ability to meet the carrier’s contractual obligations.

(i) In the case of an individual health benefit plan that delivers covered services through a
specified network of health care providers, the enrollee no longer lives, resides or works in the
service area of the provider network and the termination of coverage is not related to the health
status of any enrollee.

(j) In the case of a health benefit plan that is offered in the individual market only through one
or more bona fide associations, the membership of an individual in the association ceases and the
termination of coverage is not related to the health status of any enrollee.

(5) A carrier may modify an individual health benefit plan at the time of coverage renewal. The
modification is not a discontinuation of the plan under subsection (4)(c), (e) and (f) of this section.

(6) Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, and subject to the provisions of ORS
743B.310 (2) and (4), a carrier may rescind an individual health benefit plan if the policyholder or
a representative of the policyholder:
   (a) Performs an act, practice or omission that constitutes fraud; or
   (b) Makes an intentional misrepresentation of a material fact as prohibited by the terms of the
   policy.

(7) A carrier that continues to offer coverage in the individual market in this state is not re-
quired to offer coverage in all of the carrier’s individual health benefit plans. However, if a carrier
elects to continue a plan that is closed to new individual policyholders instead of offering alterna-
tive coverage in the carrier’s other individual health benefit plans, the coverage for all existing
policyholders in the closed plan is renewable in accordance with subsection (4) of this section.

(8) An individual health benefit plan may not impose annual or lifetime limits on the dollar
amount of essential health benefits.

(9) A grandfathered health plan may not impose lifetime limits on the dollar amount of essential
health benefits.

(10) This section does not require a carrier to actively market, offer, issue or accept applications
for:
   (a) A bona fide association health benefit plan from individuals who are not members of the bona
   fide association; or
   (b) A grandfathered health plan from individuals who are not eligible for coverage under the
   plan.

(11) A carrier that offers an individual health benefit plan that reimburses the costs of
prescription drugs sold by a retail pharmacy or administered by a health care provider may
not, during a plan year:
   (a) Remove a prescription drug from a prescription drug formulary, except in response
to an alert issued by the United States Food and Drug Administration;
   (b) Increase the deductible, copayment, coinsurance or other cost sharing applicable to
a prescription drug unless an A-rated generic for the prescription drug is added to a
formulary before the increase becomes effective; or
   (c) Impose new utilization controls on a prescription drug, including but not limited to
prior authorization or step therapy.

(12) Subsection (11) of this section does not prohibit a carrier, during a plan year, from:
   (a) Adding to a prescription drug formulary a prescription drug newly approved by the
United States Food and Drug Administration;
(b) Reducing a deductible, copayment, coinsurance or other cost sharing applicable to a prescription drug; or
(c) Eliminating one or more utilization controls applicable to a prescription drug.