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## Association Health Plan Participation Requirements Effective Plan Years Beginning On or After January 1, 2019

These Association Health Plan Participation Requirements (Requirements) apply to both Hometown Health Plan, Inc. and Hometown Health Providers Insurance Company, Inc. (collectively referred to as Hometown Health). These Requirements apply to employers who wish to purchase Hometown Health Association Health Plan coverage.

Hometown Health’s participation requirements for Association Health Plan coverage adhere to the laws and regulations set forth under the Affordable Care Act, 29 CFR Part 2510, Title 57 of Nevada Revised Statutes and other applicable laws and regulations. In the event there is a conflict between these Requirements and Hometown Health’s Evidence of Coverage (EOC), the EOC will prevail. In the event there is a conflict between documents provided by Hometown Health and federal or state regulation, the regulation will prevail. “Regulation” includes interpretive bulletins and sub-regulatory guidance issued by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), the Department of Labor (DOL) and the Nevada Division of Insurance (DOI).<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Hometown Health will ensure all plan offerings, and operations comply with insurance law and do not conflict with Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and Department of Labor (DOL) requirements. However, it is the employer’s sole responsibility to ensure compliance with IRS and DOL regulation when offering group coverage.

Hometown Health complies with applicable Federal civil rights laws and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, or sex.

## 1. GROUP ELIGIBILITY

- a. Generally, Hometown Health Association Health Plan products are available to any employer that is an approved membership type of the applicable association. For instance, if an association has a full membership and an associate membership, but only full members are eligible for coverage, employers that are associate members would not be eligible. Enrollment will not be effectuated until Hometown Health receives proof of the group's membership in the association.
- b. Sole Proprietors not Eligible – Unless otherwise approved by the association and Hometown Health, Sole Proprietors are not eligible for association health plan coverage. A Sole Proprietor is an employer with no employees other than the owner's spouse or dependents (as defined by the Internal Revenue Code). A business owner without one non-familial employee (any employee other than one's spouse or dependents) is considered a Sole Proprietor and is therefore not eligible for small group coverage. However, an owner with at least one non-familial employee is not a Sole Proprietor and is eligible for coverage even if all non-familial employees waive coverage.
- c. Contract Plan Modifications (No Break in Contract) – Employers may submit plan changes at renewal. A group may only add or remove a plan during their anniversary month.
- d. Change in Tax ID or Business Name – To ensure compliance with IRS 1094 and 1095 reporting requirements, if the business owner obtains a new Tax identification number or the business name changes, Hometown Health will require a letter from the business indicating the new Tax Identification Number and business name and the effective date of the change.
- e. Guaranteed Issue and Renewability – Hometown Health will issue and renew the health plans offered to the applicable association to each employer that is a member of the association and who is eligible for the health plan.
- f. Geographic Service Area – For an employer group to be eligible for coverage they must have a physical address located in the product's geographic service area.
  - i. If the employer's business address is in the product's geographic service area, the rates will be based on the Rating Area<sup>2</sup> where the business is located.
- g. Exceptions to Guaranteed Issue and Renewability – These rules do not apply under certain circumstances. Additionally, Hometown Health may refuse to issue coverage or to renew coverage for any of the following reasons:
  - i. Fraud – Misrepresentation of information regarding the employer or its employees;
  - ii. Non-payment of premiums;

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<sup>2</sup> Rating Areas are defined by the DOI as follows:

Rating Area 1 is Clark and Nye Counties.

Rating Area 2 is Washoe County.

Rating Area 3 is Carson City, Douglas, Lyon and Storey Counties and, if applicable, eastern California.

Rating Area 4 is all other Nevada counties.

- iii. Non-payment of association dues;
- iv. Inability to meet association eligibility requirements;
- v. Inability to meet participation requirements (see Section 5 below);
- vi. Inability to meet employer contribution requirements (see Section 6 below);
- vii. Sole proprietor – An association may choose to exclude sole proprietors from their association health plan;
- viii. Termination of Product – Hometown Health no longer offers a coverage in a particular market;
- ix. Discontinuation of Product – Hometown Health discontinues offering a particular product in the group market;
- x. Enrollee movement outside the service area – There is no longer any enrollee under the plan who lives, resides or works in the service area;
- xi. Discontinuation of All Coverage – As allowed by state law; and
- xii. Incorrect Market – If the group size does not meet the definition of a Small Group or a bona fide employer-employee relationship does not exist.

## **2. PREMIUM QUOTE CALCULATION**

- a. Number of Plans Selected by Employers – Hometown Health allows employers to select up to two (2) plans for less than ten enrolled employees and up to three (3) plans for ten or more enrolled employees. There is no restriction of metal levels offered.
- b. Composite Health Plan Rates Not Available –To minimize potential changes to rates based on last minute changes to enrollment, Hometown Health does not currently offer composite rates.
- c. Supplemental benefits. The following supplemental benefits may be purchased for an additional cost:
  - i. Dental – A group’s dental selection must be clearly noted with the confirmed plan selection. Modifications to the dental plan will not be allowed for the contract period.
  - ii. Vision – A group’s vision selection must be clearly noted with the confirmed plan selection. Modifications to the vision plan will not be allowed for the contract period.
  - iii. Healthy Tracks – A group’s Healthy Tracks selection must be clearly noted with the confirmed plan selection. If a group opts to join the Healthy Tracks program in the middle of a policy year, the Healthy Tracks team will confirm when the group will be effective.

### **\*\*\* Required Group Application Documentation (Submit to Hometown Health)**

- 1. Hometown Health requires a complete application and submission of all required documents as defined below no later than the last business day prior to the group’s effective date. Once Underwriting receives the completed documentation listed below they will notify the Sales department within 2-3 business days if the group is initially approved. If an incomplete submission requires Underwriting to request additional information your group’s effective date may be delayed. Completed Application for Group Insurance (preferably on-line)
- 2. Plan Selection and Signed Rate Agreement

3. Signed Group Enrollment Agreement – Must be completed during the group’s open enrollment period; otherwise, group is subject to termination.
4. Enrollment applications or enrollment file for electronic eligibility.
5. Signed waivers verifying employee eligibility with paper application. Underwriting reserves the right to request waivers on electronic applications to verify eligibility and participation.
6. Binder Check for first month’s premium based on the census or, if actual enrollment is available, based on the actual enrollment. If there is any discrepancy between the binder amount and the final enrollment, the balance will be billed or credited on the first premium bill. Hometown Health requires at least 75% of the premium paid for new and renewing groups.
7. Groups with less than 5 enrolled subscribers must submit a Quarterly wage and tax statement listing the employee’s status.
8. Confirmation of physical business location for the selected product.
9. Wage and Quarterly – Hometown Health reserves the right to request a Wage and Quarterly statement to verify the employer census in the following circumstances:
  - a. New Sold Group (upon Hometown Health’s request or audit process)
  - b. Group’s final enrollment changes from the initial submitted census by 20% or more;
  - c. Upon group renewal (60 day compliance letter released to group and broker with request). Group will not be renewed if documentation is not returned by Group’s date of renewal.
  - d. Verification of National Network
  - e. Employees not listed on the wage and quarterly may submit two weeks of payroll receipts.
    - i. Payroll must include company name, dates of payroll period, employee name, wages paid, and withholdings
  - f. Groups with 5 or less subscribers enrolling and group 25 or more subscribers enrolling.
10. Business License upon request

### **3. RENEWALS**

- a. Timing – Notice of upcoming employer group renewals will be sent to Sales by the 9th of each month prior to the groups 60 day advance notice. Hometown Health will conduct a review of the renewing group to determine if the group meets participation and contribution requirements and will notify sales of any groups with potential failures to comply. Renewal packages will be mailed or sent electronically to the group and broker 60 days prior to the anticipated renewal date.
- b. Default Plan – If the employer does not submit renewal documentation that indicates their plan selection by the 9th of the month prior to the effective date of the renewal, the employees and their dependents will be defaulted to the mapped plan upon renewal. If the same plan does not exist, the employees and their dependents will be defaulted to a similar plan, as determined by Hometown Health.

#### 4. MEMBER ELIGIBILITY AND ENROLLMENT

- a. Enrollment Periods – Hometown Health will comply with the open enrollment, special enrollment and limited enrollment provisions listed in the applicable EOC with the following exception:
- i. *If an association allows coverage of sole proprietors*, sole proprietors may enroll during:
1. An open enrollment period between November 1 and December 15 effective January 1;
  2. A special open enrollment period granted by the association and Hometown Health in the initial months of a new plan; or
  3. A limited enrollment period resulting from a qualifying life event, provided the sole proprietor can show proof of creditable coverage for the 6 months immediately preceding the coverage request date and the sole proprietor submits proof of eligibility to Hometown Health no later than 30 days after the qualifying life event.

Sole proprietors must submit a completed application along with a binder check for the first month's premium no later than the last day prior to the requested effective date. All sole proprietor coverage will end 12/31 regardless of start date.

- b. Eligible Employee – An Eligible Employee is generally an employee who:
- i. Works an average of at least 30 hours of service per week or 130 hours of service per month;<sup>3</sup>
  - ii. Is compensated for work by the employer and subject to withholding as it appears on a W-2 form;<sup>4</sup> and
  - iii. Meets the employer defined waiting period<sup>5</sup>

The owner/employer and any partners are considered an Eligible Employee for the purposes of obtaining association health plan coverage. A retiree who is collecting a pension from the Public Employees' Retirement System, whose last employer is the small group and who is eligible to continue coverage with the small group pursuant to NRS 287.023 and pursuant to the group's health plan is considered an Eligible Employee for the purposes of obtaining association health plan coverage.

- c. Service Area Eligibility – Some employees who live out of the service area or outside the state may not be eligible for coverage.<sup>6</sup>
- i. HMO Out of Service Area Eligibility – Hometown Health will not offer association health plan HMO coverage to any employee that lives outside of Nevada.

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<sup>3</sup> [26 CFR § 54.4980H-1\(a\)\(21\)](#)

<sup>4</sup> [26 CFR § 54.4980H-1\(a\)\(15\)](#)

<sup>5</sup> [45 CFR § 147.116](#)

<sup>6</sup> [45 CFR § 147.104\(c\)\(i\)\(1\)](#) & [NRS 689C.200](#)

- ii. PPO Out of State Eligibility – Hometown Health will not offer any new association health plan PPO coverage to any employee that lives and works outside the PPO Network Service Area<sup>7</sup> in the following circumstances:<sup>8</sup>
  - 1. New Small Groups with fewer than 10 employees enrolled in Hometown Health coverage may not enroll their employees who live and work outside the PPO Network Service Area in Hometown Health coverage.
  - 2. New Small Groups with 10 or more employees enrolled in Hometown Health coverage and that have more than 15% of their employees who live outside the PPO Network Service Area may not enroll their employees who live and work outside the PPO Network Service Area in Hometown Health coverage.
  
- d. Dependent Eligibility – Dependents must meet the eligibility requirements for dependents listed in the Enrollment and Eligibility section of the applicable EOC. Additionally, Employers may restrict dependent eligibility to one of the four following coverage options prior to open enrollment:<sup>9</sup>
  - i. Employees only
  - ii. Employees and children;
  - iii. Employees, spouses and children; or
  - iv. Employees, spouses, domestic partners and children.
  
- e. Required Enrollment Information – Hometown Health prefers receiving enrollment information via electronic file or through iChoose with the required information listed below. If the employer does not have access to electronic submission methods, a paper application for each applicant may be submitted. The following information is required for each employee and dependent who chooses to enroll in Hometown Health coverage:
  - i. Employee (Subscriber) Last Name
  - ii. Employee (Subscriber) First Name
  - iii. Employee (Subscriber) Date of Birth
  - iv. Employee (Subscriber) Social Security Number
  - v. Employee (Subscriber) Gender
  - vi. Enrolling Dependent(s) First Name(s)
  - vii. Enrolling Dependent(s) Last Name(s)
  - viii. Enrolling Dependent(s) Date of Birth
  - ix. Enrolling Dependent(s) Social Security Number
  - x. Enrolling Dependent(s) Gender
  - xi. Effective Date of Coverage
  - xii. Employee (Subscriber) Date of Hire

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<sup>7</sup> The PPO Network Service Area is generally defined as the State of Nevada as well as those areas of eastern California that are east of the Sierra and near Lake Tahoe.

<sup>8</sup> This paragraph does not determine eligibility for the national network. To determine which employees are eligible to receive in-network benefits from Hometown Health's national network providers, see Paragraph 9.

<sup>9</sup> Hometown Health recommends that, if an employer chooses to cover dependents, the employer should also pay for a portion of the dependent's coverage. If an employer does not wish to pay for a portion of the dependents' coverage, the employer should probably not cover dependents to allow the dependent to receive Advance Premium Tax Credits on the state exchange.

- xiii. Employee (Subscriber) Complete Home Address
- xiv. Plan Selection
- xv. Signature of Employee (Subscriber) (on paper applications; employer should keep a copy of employee's selection and signature for their records)
- xvi. Signature of Employer

**\*\*\* Required Eligibility and Enrollment Documentation (Employer Keep On File)**

It is the employer's responsibility to collect the appropriate documentation to support qualifying life events. This documentation includes birth certificates, adoption certificates or guardianship papers, marriage licenses, certificates of domestic partnership, death certificates, certifications of loss of coverage from an employee's previous insurer and any other documentation that substantiates the qualifying live event. Hometown Health may request a copy of any or all of this documentation in accordance with established audit criteria.

**\*\*\* Required Eligibility and Enrollment Documentation (Submit to Hometown Health)**

The employer must provide the following documentation:

- 1. Large Families – To effectuate coverage, families with more than 3 dependents under the age of 21 will be required to furnish a birth certificate for all covered dependents under the age of 21. This documentation must be provided either at open enrollment or during a special enrollment.

**5. PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS**

- a. Inability to meet Participation Requirements – Groups that cannot meet the minimum participation requirements described in this section on initial enrollment may not enroll in association health plan coverage.
- b. Minimum Participation – Minimum participation requirements are as follows:
  - i. Groups with two (2) eligible employees who do not have creditable coverage – Both employees must enroll in coverage;
  - ii. Groups with three (3) eligible employees who do not have creditable coverage – Two (2) employees must enroll in coverage; and
  - iii. Groups with four or more (4+) eligible employees who do not have creditable coverage – At least 50% of eligible employees must enroll in coverage.

For the purposes of the minimum participation requirement calculation, employees with other creditable coverage will not be considered "eligible employees." Additionally, Hometown Health will provide coverage to a single person (a "group" of one) as long as the employer is considered an employer, is not a sole proprietor (unless the applicable association allows sole proprietors) and all other Eligible Employees have other creditable coverage.

- c. New Employees Counted – Employees who have submitted an Enrollment Application and who are within the waiting period of their effective date will be considered when determining participation compliance.



## **6. EMPLOYER CONTRIBUTION REQUIREMENTS**

- a. Minimum Contribution – An employer must contribute a minimum of 50% of the cost of coverage for employee only coverage for each enrolled employee.
  - i. Multiple Plans – If an employer offers multiple plan options, the minimum 50% contribution will be based on the lowest premium plan available to each employee.
- b. No Contribution Requirement for Dependents – Employers are not required to pay for any portion of dependent coverage, though it is recommended (see Paragraph 4.d above and the accompanying footnote).
- c. Additional Contribution Allowed – An employer may choose to pay for any portion of the cost of coverage above the minimums described in this section.
- d. Full Premium Due – Regardless of the amount of contribution the employer elects to pay, full premium must be paid by the due date on the applicable invoice, regardless of whether the employer has collected the appropriate amount of premium from the employer’s employees.

## **7. WAITING PERIODS**

An employer may not have a waiting period with coverage that begins later than 60 days on or following the date of benefit eligible employment. An employer may elect to include a reasonable and bona fide orientation period, not to exceed 30 days, prior to the start of the waiting period.<sup>10</sup>

## **8. NEW GROUP DEDUCTIBLE CREDIT**

For new groups, Hometown Health will provide credit for medical or combined deductibles met under prior group health coverage. Proof of the deductible amount must be submitted in a format defined by Hometown Health within 90 days of the group’s effective date of coverage.

Hometown Health will not provide credit for any new employee who applies for coverage after the initial group deductible credit has been completed.

Hometown Health will not reprocess claims that were processed prior to the date the deductible credit list was received.

## **9. NATIONAL NETWORK**

National Network – Hometown Health’s national network is the network of providers who are included in the network leased by Hometown Health.

- a. HMO National Network Eligibility – Hometown Health does not offer its national network to any HMO member.
- b. PPO National Network Eligibility – Hometown Health has a comprehensive network within the PPO Network Service Area as defined in section 4.c.ii and the accompanying

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<sup>10</sup> [45 CFR § 147.116](#)



footnote. The national network will only be available to employees in the following circumstances:

- i. The subscriber lives and works outside the PPO Network Service Area . Please see Paragraph 4.c.ii above for additional restrictions regarding this eligibility.
- ii. The subscriber's covered dependent is attending a college which requires the dependent's physical attendance at the college outside the PPO Network Service Area; or
- iii. The subscriber's covered dependent under the age of 19 who lives outside the PPO Network Service Area with the dependent's primary guardian.

A spouse will not have access to the national network unless the subscriber lives and works outside the PPO Network Service Area as described in (i) above. A dependent will not have access to the national network unless one of the conditions described in (i) through (iii) above apply.

To gain access to the national network, the employer or broker must provide Hometown Health the applicable eligibility provision above which applies to the member.

The national network shall be available to a member effective on the first of the month following Hometown Health's receipt of a valid, approved request to provide access to the national network for that member.