

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
Center for Consumer Information and Insurance Oversight
200 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, DC 20201



Date: April 6, 2017

Subject: Ending Special Enrollment Periods for Coverage during Calendar Year 2016

Purpose and Scope:

Consistent with our practice in prior years, as of April 1, 2017, CMS is no longer accepting new requests for a Special Enrollment Period (SEP) that would enable consumers to enroll in a Qualified Health Plan (QHP) with 2016 coverage effective dates through the Federally-facilitated Marketplace, Federally-facilitated Marketplaces where States perform plan management functions, or State-based Marketplace using the Federal Platform. SEP requests for 2016 coverage that were received on or before March 31, 2017 may be processed by CMS after April 1, 2017. However, as of April 1, 2017, all new SEP requests to CMS seeking 2016 coverage, with the exception of SEPs issued as a result of an eligibility appeal described below, will be given a coverage effective date no earlier than January 1, 2017, if eligible for retroactive coverage.

This guidance applies to all SEPs specified in 45 CFR §155.420(d) and supersedes all guidance on SEPs that conflicts with this policy. This guidance does not apply to eligibility appeals and does not impact a consumers' right to request an appeal of their eligibility determination in accordance with 45 CFR §155.505(b).