



March 8, 2013

Lt. Governor & Director Mary Taylor
Ohio Department of Insurance
50 West Town Street
Third Floor – Suite 300
Columbus, OH 43215-4186

Dear Director Taylor:

Thank you for your letter sharing your intent to undertake activities relating to the certification of the Qualified Health Plans (QHPs) that will be available to consumers beginning on October 1, 2013.

Specifically, you have attested that Ohio has the legal authority and operational capacity to conduct the plan management activities required to support certification of QHPs, as described in 45 CFR 155.1010(a). In addition, Ohio will perform all plan management activities listed in Section 4.0 of the Blueprint in time for the 2013 QHP selection process.

Finally, thank you for participating in the review with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) to determine Ohio's operational plans and capacity to perform these functions. Following this one-day review, CMS will initiate a process under which it may rely on Ohio's recommended determinations that health plans meet QHP certification requirements.

Please note that this process may require a written understanding between Ohio and CMS in addition to any agreement under which section 1311(a) grant funds are provided. Assuming Ohio continues to act in accordance with your attestations CMS will continue to rely on Ohio's recommendations in certifying QHPs. CMS, however, will maintain its legal responsibility for ensuring that QHPs meet all QHP certification standards.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Gary Cohen", is written over a horizontal line.

Gary Cohen, Director
Center for Consumer Information and Insurance Oversight