

191—35.25 (509) Special enrollments.

35.25(1) A carrier or organized delivery system shall permit individuals to enroll for coverage under terms of a health benefit plan, without regard to other enrollment dates permitted under the group health insurance coverage, if an eligible employee requests enrollment or, if the group health insurance coverage makes coverage available to dependents, on behalf of a dependent who is eligible but not enrolled under the group health insurance coverage, during the special enrollment period, which shall be 30 days following an event described in subrules 35.25(2) or 35.25(3) with respect to the individual for whom enrollment is requested. A carrier or organized delivery system may impose enrollment requirements that are otherwise applicable under terms of the group health insurance coverage to individuals requesting immediate enrollment.

35.25(2) An individual, who previously had other coverage for medical care and for whom an eligible employee declined coverage under the group health insurance coverage, may be enrolled during a special enrollment period if the individual has lost the other coverage for medical care and:

a. If required by the group health insurance coverage, the eligible employee stated in writing when declining the coverage, after being given a notice of the requirement form, and the consequences of failure to submit a written statement that coverage was declined because the individual had coverage for medical care under another group health insurance coverage, group health plan, or otherwise; and

b. When enrollment was declined for the individual:

(1) The individual had coverage under a COBRA continuation provision and the coverage has been exhausted; or

(2) The individual had coverage other than under a COBRA continuation provision and the coverage has been terminated due to loss of eligibility for the coverage, including loss of coverage as a result of legal separation, divorce, death, termination of employment, reduction in the number of hours of employment and any loss of eligibility after a period that is measured by reference to any of the foregoing, or termination of employer contributions toward the other coverage.

c. For purposes of subparagraph 35.25(2) “*b*”(2):

(1) Loss of eligibility for the coverages does not include loss of eligibility due to the eligible employee’s or dependent’s failure to make timely premium payments or termination of coverage for cause such as making a fraudulent claim or intentional misrepresentation of material fact in connection with the group health insurance coverage; and

(2) Employer contributions include contributions by any current or former employer of the individual or another person that was contributing to coverage for the individual.

(3) Exhaustion of COBRA continuation coverage means that an individual’s COBRA continuation coverage ceases for any reason other than either failure of the individual to pay premiums on a timely basis, or for cause, such as making a fraudulent claim or an intentional misrepresentation of a material fact in connection with the plan. An individual is considered to have exhausted COBRA continuation coverage if the coverage ceases.

35.25(3) If the eligible employee has previously declined enrollment under the group health insurance coverage but acquires a dependent through marriage, birth, adoption or placement for adoption, the eligible employee or dependent may be enrolled during the special enrollment period with respect to the individual.

35.25(4) Enrollment of the eligible employee or dependent is effective not later than the first day of the calendar month or, for a newborn or adopted child, on the date of birth, adoption, or placement for adoption.