

[(1)](I) are offered and priced separately from benefits specified in accordance with § 15-1207 of this subtitle; and

[(2)](II) do not have the effect of duplicating any of those benefits; AND

(2) ~~THE STANDARD PLAN SHALL BE OFFERED TO THE EMPLOYER IN A FORMAT TO BE DETERMINED BY THE COMMISSION THAT CARRIER:~~

(I) CLEARLY DISTINGUISHES THE STANDARD PLAN FROM OTHER OFFERINGS OF THE CARRIER;

(II) INDICATES THE STANDARD PLAN IS THE ONLY PLAN REQUIRED BY STATE LAW; AND

(III) SPECIFIES THAT ALL ENHANCEMENTS TO THE STANDARD PLAN ARE NOT REQUIRED BY STATE LAW.

(e) Notwithstanding subsection (b) of this section, a health maintenance organization may provide a point of service delivery system as an additional benefit through another carrier regardless of whether the other carrier also offers the Standard Plan.

(f) A carrier may offer coverage for dental care and services as an additional benefit.

15-1207.

(c) (1) Subject to paragraph (2) of this subsection, the Commission shall exclude or limit benefits or adjust cost-sharing arrangements in the Standard Plan if the average rate for the Standard Plan exceeds ~~[12%]~~ 10% of the average annual wage in the State.

(2) The Commission annually shall determine the average rate for the Standard Plan by using the average rate submitted by each carrier that offers the Standard Plan.

## SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That:

(a) On or before January 1, 2004, the Maryland Health Care Commission, in consultation with the Maryland Insurance Administration, shall conduct an analysis of and make recommendations on the administrative cost of health plans in the small group market, including:

(1) the total amount and distribution of administrative costs;

(2) the strategies for lowering administrative costs; and

(3) the appropriateness of the medical loss ratios specified in § ~~15-605(c)(7) of the Health General~~ § 15-605(c)(1) of the Insurance Article.

(b) It is the intent of the General Assembly that licensed entities and individuals including health insurers, nonprofit health service plans, health