

(1) UPON REQUEST, PROVIDE AN APPLICATION, AND INFORMATION RELATIVE TO CONSIDERATION FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE CARRIER'S PROVIDER PANEL, TO ANY PROVIDER WISHING TO APPLY FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE CARRIER'S PROVIDER PANEL;

(2) MAKE PUBLICLY AVAILABLE ITS APPLICATION; AND

(3) MAKE EFFORTS TO INCREASE THE OPPORTUNITY OF A BROAD RANGE OF MINORITY PROVIDERS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE CARRIER'S PROVIDER PANEL.

(D) (1) A PROVIDER SEEKING PARTICIPATION IN THE PROVIDER PANEL OF A CARRIER SHALL SUBMIT AN APPLICATION TO THE CARRIER.

(2) (1) AFTER REVIEW BY A CARRIER OF AN APPLICATION SUBMITTED UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION, THE CARRIER SHALL ACCEPT OR, SUBJECT TO PARAGRAPH (3) OF THIS SUBSECTION, REJECT THE PROVIDER FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE CARRIER'S PROVIDER PANEL.

(H) IF THE CARRIER REJECTS THE PROVIDER FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE CARRIER'S PROVIDER PANEL, THE CARRIER SHALL SEND WRITTEN NOTIFICATION OF THE REJECTION TO THE PROVIDER TO THE ADDRESS LISTED ON THE APPLICATION.

(2) (1) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH (4) OF THIS SUBSECTION, A CARRIER SHALL GIVE NOTICE OF THE ACCEPTANCE OR REJECTION OF A PROVIDER'S APPLICATION FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE CARRIER'S PROVIDER PANEL WITHIN 60 DAYS AFTER RECEIPT BY THE CARRIER OF A COMPLETED APPLICATION AND CREDENTIALING INFORMATION.

(H) FAILURE OF THE CARRIER TO SEND NOTIFICATION IN ACCORDANCE WITH SUBPARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS PARAGRAPH SHALL BE CONSIDERED A VIOLATION OF THIS ARTICLE AND THE CARRIER IS SUBJECT TO THE PROVISIONS AND PENALTIES OF §§ 55 AND 55A OF THIS ARTICLE.

(H) A CARRIER THAT GIVES NOTICE OF REJECTION OF A PROVIDER'S APPLICATION FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE CARRIER'S PROVIDER PANEL SHALL INFORM THE PROVIDER IN WRITING OF THE REASON FOR REJECTING THE APPLICATION.

(IV) IF A CARRIER DEMONSTRATES THAT IT IS IN COMPLIANCE WITH § 19-705.1 OF THE HEALTH GENERAL ARTICLE, A CARRIER MAY REJECT AN APPLICATION FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE CARRIER'S PROVIDER PANEL BASED SOLELY ON THE PARTICIPATION IN THE CARRIER'S PROVIDER PANEL OF A SUFFICIENT NUMBER OF SIMILARLY QUALIFIED PROVIDERS THAT PERFORM SIMILAR SERVICES.

(4) (1) A CARRIER THAT RECEIVES AN INCOMPLETE APPLICATION SUBMITTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION SHALL RETURN THE APPLICATION WITHIN 10 DAYS FROM THE DATE OF RECEIPT TO THE PROVIDER TO THE ADDRESS LISTED ON THE APPLICATION.