

(3) ON THE REQUEST ON BEHALF OF AN INDIVIDUAL MADE NOT LATER THAN 24 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF CESSATION OF THE COVERAGE DESCRIBED IN ITEM (1) OR (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION, WHICHEVER IS LATER.

(C) THE CERTIFICATION MAY BE PROVIDED AT A TIME CONSISTENT WITH NOTICES REQUIRED UNDER ANY APPLICABLE STATE OR FEDERAL CONTINUATION PROVISION.

(D) THE CERTIFICATION SHALL CONTAIN:

(1) WRITTEN CERTIFICATION OF THE PERIOD OF CREDITABLE COVERAGE OF THE INDIVIDUAL UNDER THE HEALTH BENEFIT PLAN, AND THE COVERAGE, IF APPLICABLE, UNDER THE APPLICABLE STATE OR FEDERAL CONTINUATION PROVISION; AND

(2) THE WAITING PERIOD, IF ANY, IMPOSED WITH RESPECT TO THE INDIVIDUAL FOR ANY COVERAGE UNDER THE HEALTH BENEFIT PLAN.

(E) IF A GROUP HEALTH PLAN ENROLLS AN INDIVIDUAL FOR COVERAGE UNDER THE PLAN AND THE INDIVIDUAL PROVIDES A CERTIFICATION OF COVERAGE, THEN:

(1) ON REQUEST OF THE GROUP HEALTH PLAN, THE ENTITY THAT ISSUED THE CERTIFICATION PROVIDED BY THE INDIVIDUAL PROMPTLY SHALL DISCLOSE TO THE REQUESTING GROUP HEALTH PLAN, INFORMATION REGARDING COVERAGE OF CLASSES AND CATEGORIES OF HEALTH BENEFITS AVAILABLE UNDER THE ENTITY'S PLAN OR POLICY; AND

(2) THE ENTITY MAY CHARGE THE REQUESTING PLAN FOR THE REASONABLE COST OF DISCLOSING THE INFORMATION.

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(A) IN DETERMINING A PERIOD OF CREDITABLE COVERAGE, ANY PERIOD THAT AN INDIVIDUAL IS IN A WAITING PERIOD FOR ANY COVERAGE UNDER A GROUP HEALTH BENEFIT PLAN OR AN AFFILIATION PERIOD MAY NOT BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT IN DETERMINING ANY PERIOD OF CONTINUOUS CREDITABLE COVERAGE.

(B) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (C) OF THIS SECTION, A CARRIER SHALL COUNT A PERIOD OF CREDITABLE COVERAGE WITHOUT REGARD TO THE SPECIFIC BENEFITS COVERED DURING THE PERIOD.

(C) (1) A CARRIER MAY ELECT TO REDUCE THE PERIOD OF ANY PREEXISTING CONDITION PROVISION BASED ON COVERAGE OF BENEFITS WITHIN ANY CLASS OR CATEGORY OF BENEFITS SPECIFIED BY THE SECRETARY BY REGULATION.

(2) ANY ELECTION MADE UNDER THIS SECTION SHALL BE MADE ON A UNIFORM BASIS FOR ALL COVERED INDIVIDUALS.