

entitled to reimbursement under, the policy, contract, or certificate, shall be entitled to reimbursement for such service. The provisions of this section apply to all such policies, contracts, or certificates issued, renewed, modified, altered, amended, or reissued on or after July 1, 1984.

(b) (1) Notwithstanding any other provision of this article, whenever liability and amount are reasonably clear, a nonprofit health service plan shall reimburse any person entitled to reimbursement under subsection (a) of this section or any hospital or related institution defined in § 19-301 of the Health - General Article entitled to reimbursement within 30 days of the proper filing of a claim together with all necessary documentation.

(2) (i) If a nonprofit health service plan fails to comply with paragraph (1) of this subsection, the nonprofit health service plan shall pay interest on that amount of the claim that remains unpaid 30 days after the filing of the claim.

(ii) The interest paid under this paragraph shall be at the MONTHLY rate of [1 1/2 percent per month]:

1. 1.5 PERCENT FROM THE 31ST DAY THROUGH THE 60TH DAY;
2. 2 PERCENT FROM THE 61ST DAY THROUGH THE 90TH 120TH DAY; AND
3. 3 2.5 PERCENT AFTER THE 91ST 120TH DAY.

(3) The provisions of this subsection do not apply to claims with respect to which there is a good faith dispute regarding the legitimacy of the claim or the appropriate amount of reimbursement.

~~(4) INTEREST PAID UNDER PARAGRAPH (3) OF THIS SUBSECTION MAY NOT BE CONSIDERED A CLAIM SETTLEMENT EXPENSE FOR THE PURPOSES OF A RATE FILING UNDER THIS ARTICLE.~~

~~(5) TO THE EXTENT CONSISTENT WITH THE EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT INCOME SECURITY ACT OF 1974, 29 U.S.C. 1001, ET SEQ, AS AMENDED, THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SUBSECTION SHALL APPLY TO A NONPROFIT HEALTH SERVICE PLAN ACTING AS A THIRD PARTY ADMINISTRATOR.~~

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(a) Notwithstanding any provision of a group or individual policy or contract, including profit and nonprofit health plans, or any certificate issued thereunder, of health, sickness, accident, or disability insurance, delivered or issued for delivery within the State, whenever such policy, contract, or certificate provides for reimbursement for any service which is within the lawful scope of practice of a health care provider duly licensed under the Health Occupations Article, the insured, or any other person covered