

(b) (1) Subject to subsection (c) of this section, a qualified secondary beneficiary shall be entitled to benefits under a group contract after an applicable change in status.

(2) Paragraph (1) of this subsection shall not apply to any period the insured is not covered by a group contract.

(c) Any coverage under this section shall be for a period beginning on the date of an applicable change in status and ending on the earliest of any of the following:

(1) The date on which the qualified secondary beneficiary becomes eligible for hospital, medical, or surgical benefits under an insured or self-insured group health benefit program or plan, other than the group contract, which is:

- (i) Written on an expense-incurred basis; or
- (ii) With a health maintenance organization;

(2) The date on which the qualified secondary beneficiary becomes entitled to benefits under Title XVIII of the Social Security Act;

(3) In the case of any individual who is a qualified secondary beneficiary by reason of having been a dependent child, the date on which the individual would no longer have been covered under the group contract if there had been no applicable change in status;

(4) The date on which the qualified secondary beneficiary elects no longer to have coverage under the group contract;

(5) The date on which the qualified secondary beneficiary accepts hospital, medical, or surgical coverage under any nongroup contract or policy:

- (i) Written on an expense-incurred basis; or
- (ii) With a health maintenance organization;

(6) In the case of an individual who is a qualified secondary beneficiary by reason of having been the insured's spouse, the date on which the individual remarries.

(d) Any coverage under this section shall be identical to the coverage offered under the group contract to similarly situated beneficiaries where there has been no applicable change in status.

(e) From the date of the applicable change in status until the date on which the termination statement is received by the employer, the insured shall pay to the employer, through payroll deduction or otherwise as may be determined by the employer, the sum of the employer's contribution for a qualified secondary beneficiary as defined in subsection (a)(6)(i) of this section and the amount of contribution which would have been paid by the insured if there had been no applicable change in status.