

Final Updated SBC Template Available

The departments have finalized the Summary of Benefits and Coverage template, instructions, and related documents. Employers should use this new template for open enrollment periods beginning on or after April 1, 2017.

Background

The Affordable Care Act (ACA) requires group health plans and health insurers to provide a Summary of Benefits and Coverage (SBC) to participants and beneficiaries to help them understand their coverage options and make informed decisions regarding their health benefits.

The Departments of Labor (DOL), Treasury, and Health & Human Services (departments) recently proposed changes to the SBC template and related materials. (See our [March 7, 2016 For Your Information.](#))

Final SBC Template

After receiving comments on the proposed SBC template, instructions, glossary and other materials, the departments issued final documents on April 6, 2016.

- [Final SBC Template](#)
- [Sample Completed SBC](#)
- [Instructions for Completing the SBC](#)
- [Uniform Glossary of Coverage and Medical Terms](#)

As with the proposed SBC template, the final template includes new information about services covered before the deductible is met, explanations about tiered coverage and a new coverage example. Health plans and issuers should use the final SBC template starting with the first open enrollment period that begins on or after April 1, 2017.

In Closing

For calendar year plans, the new SBCs will first be used in the fall of 2017 for the 2018 plan year. With the final SBC template available, employers now have the information they need to update their SBCs in anticipation of open enrollment.

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