

THE NONPROFIT HEALTH CARE CORPORATION REFORM ACT (EXCERPT)
Act 350 of 1980
Part 5

550.1501 Contracts with health care facilities.

Sec. 501.

(1) A health care corporation subject to this act may enter into contracts with health care facilities in Michigan or health facilities in any other jurisdiction. It is the intent of the legislature that contracts with health facilities outside of Michigan expand access to health care without reducing access to Michigan licensed health facilities.

(2) Contracts entered into under this section with health care facilities licensed in Michigan are subject to the provisions of sections 504 to 518.

History: 1980, Act 350, Eff. Apr. 3, 1981 ;-- Am. 2003, Act 60, Imd. Eff. July 15, 2003

Popular Name: Blue Cross-Blue Shield

Popular Name: Act 350

550.1501a Special participating contracts with health care providers for provision of primary health care benefits to children enrolled in Michigan caring program.

Sec. 501a.

A health care corporation may enter into special participating contracts with health care providers for the provision of primary health care benefits to children enrolled in a Michigan caring program created under section 436. Special participating contracts entered into under this section are not subject to sections 502 to 518.

History: Add. 1991, Act 73, Imd. Eff. July 11, 1991

Popular Name: Blue Cross-Blue Shield

Popular Name: Act 350

550.1501b Conduct on behalf of or information provided to subscriber by health care provider; prohibition or discouragement by health care corporation.

Sec. 501b.

A health care corporation shall not prohibit or discourage a health care provider from advocating on behalf of a subscriber for appropriate medical treatment options pursuant to the grievance procedure in section 404 or from discussing with a subscriber or provider any of the following:

- (a) Health care treatments and services.
- (b) Quality assurance plans required by law, if applicable.
- (c) The financial relationships between the health care corporation and the health care provider including all of the following as applicable:
 - (i) Whether a fee-for-service arrangement exists, under which the provider is paid a specified amount for each covered service rendered to the participant.
 - (ii) Whether a capitation arrangement exists, under which a fixed amount is paid to the provider for all covered services that are or may be rendered to each covered individual or family.
 - (iii) Whether payments to providers are made based on standards relating to cost, quality, or patient satisfaction.

History: Add. 1997, Act 68, Imd. Eff. July 15, 1997

Popular Name: Blue Cross-Blue Shield

Popular Name: Act 350

550.1501c Provider network.

Sec. 501c.

Beginning January 1, 2014, a health care corporation shall establish and maintain a provider network that, at a minimum, satisfies any network adequacy requirements imposed by the commissioner pursuant to federal law.

History: Add. 2013, Act 4, Imd. Eff. Mar. 18, 2013

Popular Name: Blue Cross-Blue Shield

Popular Name: Act 350

550.1502 Contracts for reimbursement with professional health care providers; private provider-patient relationship; methods of diagnosis or treatment not to be restricted; refusal to reimburse for overutilized services; list of providers; recommendation of provider as misdemeanor; symbol of participation; health maintenance organization not impeded; contracts subject to MCL 550.1504 to 550.1518; participation of freestanding surgical outpatient facility; optometry services; status of license or registration; chiropractic service; physical therapist or physical therapist assistant services.

Sec. 502.

(1) A health care corporation may enter into participating contracts for reimbursement with professional health care providers practicing legally in this state for health care services or with health practitioners practicing legally in any other jurisdiction for health care services that the professional health care providers or practitioners may legally perform. A participating contract may cover all members or may be a separate and individual contract on a per claim basis, as set forth in the provider class plan, if, in entering into a separate and individual contract on a per claim basis, the participating provider certifies all of the following to the health care corporation:

(a) That the provider will accept payment from the corporation as payment in full for services rendered for the specified claim for the member indicated.

(b) That the provider will accept payment from the corporation as payment in full for all cases involving the procedure specified, for the duration of the calendar year. As used in this subdivision, provider does not include a person licensed as a dentist under part 166 of the public health code, 1978 PA 368, MCL 333.16601 to 333.16648.

(c) That the provider will not determine whether to participate on a claim on the basis of the race, color, creed, marital status, sex, national origin, residence, age, disability, or lawful occupation of the member entitled to health care benefits.

(2) A contract entered into under subsection (1) shall provide that the private provider-patient relationship shall be maintained to the extent provided for by law. A health care corporation shall continue to offer a reimbursement arrangement to any class of providers with which it has contracted before August 27, 1985 and that continues to meet the standards set by the corporation for that class of providers.

(3) A health care corporation shall not restrict the methods of diagnosis or treatment of professional health care providers who treat members. Except as otherwise provided in section 502a, each member of the health care corporation shall at all times have a choice of professional health care providers. This subsection does not apply to limitations in benefits contained in certificates, to the reimbursement provisions of a provider contract or reimbursement arrangement, or to standards set by the corporation for all contracting providers. A health care corporation may refuse to reimburse a health care provider for health care services that are overutilized, including those services rendered, ordered, or prescribed to an extent that is greater than reasonably necessary.

(4) A health care corporation may provide to a member, upon request, a list of providers with whom the corporation contracts, for the purpose of assisting a member in obtaining a type of health care service. However, except as otherwise provided in section 502a, an employee, agent, or officer of the corporation, or an individual on the board of directors of the corporation, shall not make recommendations on behalf of the corporation with respect to the choice of a specific health care provider. Except as otherwise provided in section 502a, an employee, agent, or officer of the corporation, or a person on the board of directors of the corporation who influences or attempts to influence a person in the choice or selection of a specific professional health care provider on behalf of the corporation, is guilty of a misdemeanor.

(5) A health care corporation shall provide a symbol of participation, which can be publicly displayed, to

providers who participate on all claims for covered health care services rendered to subscribers.

(6) This section does not impede the lawful operation of, or lawful promotion of, a health maintenance organization owned by a health care corporation.

(7) Contracts entered into under this section with professional health care providers licensed in this state are subject to sections 504 to 518.

(8) A health care corporation shall not deny participation to a freestanding surgical outpatient facility on the basis of ownership if the facility meets the reasonable standards set by the health care corporation for similar facilities, is licensed under part 208 of the public health code, 1978 PA 368, MCL 333.20801 to 333.20821, and complies with part 222 of the public health code, 1978 PA 368, MCL 333.22201 to 333.22260.

(9) Notwithstanding any other provision of this act, if a certificate provides for benefits for services that are within the scope of practice of optometry, a health care corporation is not required to provide benefits or reimburse for a practice of optometry service unless that service was included in the definition of practice of optometry under section 17401 of the public health code, 1978 PA 368, MCL 333.17401, as of May 20, 1992.

(10) Notwithstanding any other provision of this act, a health care corporation is not required to reimburse for services otherwise covered under a certificate if the services were performed by a member of a health care profession, which health care profession was not licensed or registered by this state on or before January 1, 1998 but that becomes a health care profession licensed or registered by this state after January 1, 1998. This subsection does not change the status of a health care profession that was licensed or registered by this state on or before January 1, 1998.

(11) Notwithstanding any other provision of this act, if a certificate provides for benefits for services that are within the scope of practice of chiropractic, a health care corporation is not required to provide benefits or reimburse for a practice of chiropractic service unless that service was included in the definition of practice of chiropractic under section 16401 of the public health code, 1978 PA 368, MCL 333.16401, as of January 1, 2009.

(12) Notwithstanding any other provision of this act, if a certificate provides for benefits for services that are provided by a licensed physical therapist or physical therapist assistant under the supervision of a licensed physical therapist, a health care corporation is not required to provide benefits or reimburse for services provided by a physical therapist or physical therapist assistant unless that service was provided by a licensed physical therapist or physical therapist assistant under the supervision of a licensed physical therapist pursuant to a prescription from a health care professional who holds a license issued under part 166, 170, 175, or 180 of the public health code, 1978 PA 368, MCL 333.16601 to 333.16648, 333.17001 to 333.17084, 333.17501 to 333.17556, and 333.18001 to 333.18058, or the equivalent license issued by another state.

History: 1980, Act 350, Eff. Apr. 3, 1981 ;-- Am. 1984, Act 230, Eff. Dec. 20, 1984 ;-- Am. 1988, Act 38, Eff. Mar. 30, 1989 ;-- Am. 1993, Act 127, Imd. Eff. July 21, 1993 ;-- Am. 1994, Act 440, Eff. Mar. 30, 1995 ;-- Am. 1997, Act 184, Imd. Eff. Dec. 30, 1997 ;-- Am. 1998, Act 24, Imd. Eff. Mar. 12, 1998 ;-- Am. 1998, Act 446, Imd. Eff. Dec. 30, 1998 ;-- Am. 2003, Act 59, Eff. July 23, 2003 ;-- Am. 2009, Act 225, Imd. Eff. Jan. 5, 2010 ;-- Am. 2014, Act 261, Imd. Eff. July 1, 2014

Compiler's Notes: Neither Senate Bill No. 493 nor House Bill No. 4494 was enacted into law by the 87th Legislature.

Popular Name: Blue Cross-Blue Shield

Popular Name: Act 350

550.1502a Prudent purchaser agreements; group contracts; option; group contracts under which financial or other advantage realized; additional option; applicability of subsection (5); individual contracts; rates; contracts subject to MCL 550.1504 to 550.1518; discrimination against class of health care providers; provisions inapplicable to certain contracts or renewals; optometry, chiropractic, and physical therapist or physical therapist assistant services.

Sec. 502a.

(1) For the purpose of doing business as an organization under the prudent purchaser act, 1984 PA 233, MCL 550.51 to 550.63, a health care corporation may enter into prudent purchaser agreements with health care providers pursuant to this section and the prudent purchaser act, 1984 PA 233, MCL 550.51 to 550.63.

(2) A health care corporation may offer group contracts under which subscribers shall be required, as a condition of coverage, to obtain services exclusively from health care providers who have entered into prudent purchaser agreements.

(3) An individual who is a member of a group who is offered the option of being a subscriber under a contract under subsection (2) shall also be offered the option of being a subscriber under a contract under subsection (4). This subsection applies only if the group in which the individual is a member has 25 or more members or if the provider panel that is providing the services under the contract is limited by the organization to a specific number

under section 3(1) of the prudent purchaser act, 1984 PA 233, MCL 550.53.

(4) A health care corporation may offer group contracts under which subscribers who elect to obtain services from health care providers who have entered into prudent purchaser agreements realize a financial advantage or other advantage by selecting providers who have entered into prudent purchaser agreements. A health care corporation shall not offer a group contract under this subsection that, as a condition of coverage, requires subscribers to obtain services exclusively from health care providers who have entered into prudent purchaser agreements.

(5) Subject to subsection (6), an individual who is a member of a group who is offered the option of being a subscriber under a contract under subsection (2) or (4) shall also be offered the option of being a subscriber under a contract that does not do any of the following:

(a) As a condition of coverage, require subscribers to obtain services exclusively from health care providers who have entered into prudent purchaser agreements.

(b) Give a financial advantage or other advantage to a subscriber who elects to obtain services from health care providers who have entered into prudent purchaser agreements.

(6) Subsection (5) applies only if the group in which the individual is a member has 25 or more members and if the group on December 20, 1984 had health care coverage through the group sponsor.

(7) A health care corporation may offer individual contracts under which subscribers are required, as a condition of coverage, to obtain services exclusively from health care providers who have entered into prudent purchaser agreements. A person to whom a contract described in this subsection is offered shall also be offered a contract that does not do any of the following:

(a) As a condition of coverage, require subscribers to obtain services exclusively from health care providers who have entered into prudent purchaser agreements.

(b) Give a financial advantage or other advantage to a subscriber who elects to obtain services from health care providers who have entered into prudent purchaser agreements.

(8) A health care corporation may offer individual contracts under which subscribers who elect to obtain services from health care providers who have entered into prudent purchaser agreements realize a financial advantage or other advantage by selecting providers who have entered into prudent purchaser agreements. A health care corporation shall not offer an individual contract under this subsection that, as a condition of coverage, requires subscribers to obtain services exclusively from health care providers who have entered into prudent purchaser agreements. A person to whom a contract described in this subsection is offered shall also be offered a contract that does not do any of the following:

(a) As a condition of coverage, require subscribers to obtain services exclusively from health care providers who have entered into prudent purchaser agreements.

(b) Give a financial advantage or other advantage to a subscriber who elects to obtain services from health care providers who have entered into prudent purchaser agreements.

(9) The rates charged by a corporation for coverage under contracts issued under this section shall not be unreasonably lower than what is necessary to meet the expenses of the corporation for providing this coverage and shall not have an anticompetitive effect or result in predatory pricing in relation to prudent purchaser agreement coverages offered by other organizations.

(10) Contracts entered into under this section are not subject to sections 504 to 518.

(11) A health care corporation shall not discriminate against a class of health care providers when entering into prudent purchaser agreements with health care providers for its provider panel. This subsection does not do any of the following:

(a) Prohibit the formation of a provider panel consisting of a single class of providers if a service provided for in the specifications of a purchaser may be legally provided only by a single class of providers.

(b) Prohibit the formation of a provider panel that conforms to the specifications of a purchaser of the coverage authorized by this section if the specifications do not exclude any class of health care providers who may legally perform the services included in the coverage.

(c) Require an organization that has uniformly applied the standards filed under section 3(3) of the prudent purchaser act, 1984 PA 233, MCL 550.53, to contract with any individual provider.

(12) Nothing in 1984 PA 230 applies to any contract that was in existence before December 20, 1984, or the renewal of that contract.

(13) Notwithstanding any other provision of this act, if coverage under a prudent purchaser agreement provides for benefits for services that are within the scope of practice of optometry, a health care corporation is not required to provide benefits or reimburse for a practice of optometry service unless that service was included in the definition of practice of optometry under section 17401 of the public health code, 1978 PA 368, MCL 333.17401, as of May 20, 1992.

(14) Notwithstanding any other provision of this act, a health care corporation offering coverage under a prudent purchaser agreement is not required to reimburse for services otherwise covered if the services were performed by a member of a health care profession, which health care profession was not licensed or registered by this state on or before January 1, 1998 but that becomes a health care profession licensed or registered by this state after January 1,

1998. This subsection does not change the status of a health care profession that was licensed or registered by this state on or before January 1, 1998.

(15) Notwithstanding any other provision of this act, if coverage under a prudent purchaser agreement provides for benefits for services that are within the scope of practice of chiropractic, a health care corporation is not required to provide benefits or reimburse for a practice of chiropractic service unless that service was included in the definition of practice of chiropractic under section 16401 of the public health code, 1978 PA 368, MCL 333.16401, as of January 1, 2009.

(16) Notwithstanding any other provision of this act, if coverage under a prudent purchaser agreement provides for benefits for services that are provided by a licensed physical therapist or physical therapist assistant under the supervision of a licensed physical therapist, a health care corporation is not required to provide benefits or reimburse for services provided by a physical therapist or physical therapist assistant unless that service was provided by a licensed physical therapist or physical therapist assistant under the supervision of a licensed physical therapist pursuant to a prescription from a health care professional who holds a license issued under part 166, 170, 175, or 180 of the public health code, 1978 PA 368, MCL 333.16601 to 333.16648, 333.17001 to 333.17084, 333.17501 to 333.17556, and 333.18001 to 333.18058, or the equivalent license issued by another state.

History: Add. 1984, Act 230, Eff. Dec. 20, 1984 ;-- Am. 1988, Act 283, Imd. Eff. July 27, 1988 ;-- Am. 1994, Act 440, Eff. Mar 30, 1995 ;-- Am. 1998, Act 446, Imd. Eff. Dec. 30, 1998 ;-- Am. 2009, Act 225, Imd. Eff. Jan. 5, 2010 ;-- Am. 2014, Act 261, Imd. Eff. July 1, 2014

Compiler's Notes: Neither Senate Bill No. 493 nor House Bill No. 4494 was enacted into law by the 87th Legislature.

Popular Name: Blue Cross-Blue Shield

Popular Name: Act 350

550.1503 Uniform reporting by health care providers.

Sec. 503.

In the course of developing and establishing provider class plans under this part, a health care corporation shall address the issue of uniform reporting by health care providers.

History: 1980, Act 350, Eff. Apr. 3, 1981

Popular Name: Blue Cross-Blue Shield

Popular Name: Act 350

550.1504 Reimbursement arrangements; goals; definitions; supplemental efforts.

Sec. 504.

(1) A health care corporation shall, with respect to providers, contract with or enter into a reimbursement arrangement to assure subscribers reasonable access to, and reasonable cost and quality of, health care services, in accordance with the following goals:

(a) There will be an appropriate number of providers throughout this state to assure the availability of certificate-covered health care services to each subscriber.

(b) Providers will meet and abide by reasonable standards of health care quality.

(c) Providers will be subject to reimbursement arrangements that will assure a rate of change in the total corporation payment per member to each provider class that is not higher than the compound rate of inflation and real economic growth.

(2) As used in this section:

(a) "Gross national product in constant dollars" means that term as defined and annually published by the United States department of commerce, bureau of economic analysis.

(b) "Implicit price deflator for gross national product" means that term as defined and annually published by the United States department of commerce, bureau of economic analysis.

(c) "Inflation" or "I" means the arithmetic average of the percentage changes in the implicit price deflator for gross national product over the 2 calendar years immediately preceding the year in which the commissioner's determination is being made.

(d) "Compound rate of inflation and real economic growth" means the ratio of the quantity "100 plus inflation", multiplied by the quantity "100 plus real economic growth", to 100; minus 100; or as expressed in the following formula:

$$\frac{((100 + I) \times (100 + \text{REG}))}{100} - 100$$

(e) "Rate of change in the total corporation payment per member to each provider class" means the arithmetic average of the percentage changes in the corporation payment per member for that provider class over the 2 years immediately preceding the commissioner's determination.

(f) "Real economic growth" or "REG" means the arithmetic average of the percentage changes in the per capita gross national product in constant dollars over the 4 calendar years immediately preceding the year in which the commissioner's determination is being made.

(3) Nothing in this section shall preclude efforts by a health care corporation supplemental to the goals prescribed in subsection (1).

History: 1980, Act 350, Eff. Apr. 3, 1981

Popular Name: Blue Cross-Blue Shield

Popular Name: Act 350

550.1505 Provider class plan; development, modification, implementation, or review; procedures to obtain advice and consultation.

Sec. 505.

(1) A health care corporation shall establish and implement procedures to obtain advice and consultation from a provider class, either through individual providers of that class or through 1 or more organizations or associations that represent the provider class, in any combination, in the development of the provider class plan. A health care corporation may negotiate with 1 or more organizations or associations that represent providers in the relevant provider class in the development and modification of the provider class plan and objectives and methods for implementing that plan.

(2) The commissioner shall establish and implement procedures whereby any person, including a subscriber, may offer advice and consultation on the development, modification, implementation, or review of a provider class plan.

(3) A health care corporation shall establish and implement procedures to obtain advice and consultation from subscribers in the development and modification of the provider class plan and objectives for implementing that plan.

History: 1980, Act 350, Eff. Apr. 3, 1981

Popular Name: Blue Cross-Blue Shield

Popular Name: Act 350

550.1506 Provider class plan; transmitting to commissioner; examination; determination; notice; placing plan into effect; retention of plan for commissioner's records.

Sec. 506.

(1) A health care corporation shall transmit a copy of each provider class plan to the commissioner 45 days before the earliest effective date of a provider contract or reimbursement arrangement for the appropriate provider class. The initial provider class plan for each class, which shall include provider contracts and reimbursement arrangements under which the corporation and a provider class are operating on the effective date of this act, shall be transmitted to the commissioner within 45 days after the effective date of this act, except where a provider class plan reimburses on a prospective basis, in which case the plan shall be transmitted within 1 year and 45 days after the effective date of this act.

(2) Upon receipt of a provider class plan, the commissioner shall examine the plan and shall determine only if the plan contains a reimbursement arrangement and objectives for each goal provided in section 504, and, for those providers with which a health care corporation contracts, provisions that are included in that contract. For purposes of making the determination required by this subsection only, the commissioner shall liberally construe the items contained in a provider class plan.

(3) If the commissioner determines that the plan does not contain a reimbursement arrangement, objectives for each goal provided in section 504, and, for those providers with which a health care corporation contracts, contract provisions, the commissioner, within 15 days after receipt of the plan, shall notify the corporation by certified or registered mail, along with a written statement of the items omitted.

(4) If the commissioner does not notify the health care corporation pursuant to subsection (3), the provider class plan shall be automatically placed into effect, and shall be retained for the commissioner's records. Provider class plans approved by the commissioner or an independent hearing officer under this part shall be considered retained for the commissioner's records under this subsection.

History: 1980, Act 350, Eff. Apr. 3, 1981

Popular Name: Blue Cross-Blue Shield

Popular Name: Act 350

550.1507 Provider class plan; inclusion and transmittal of items omitted.

Sec. 507.

Within 15 days after receipt of the notification as provided in section 506(3), the health care corporation shall include the items omitted from the provider class plan, after taking into consideration any advice and consultation received from providers and subscribers pursuant to section 505, and shall transmit the items omitted, as provided in section 506(1).

History: 1980, Act 350, Eff. Apr. 3, 1981

Popular Name: Blue Cross-Blue Shield

Popular Name: Act 350

550.1508 Provider class plan; modifications.

Sec. 508.

(1) Except during the 6-month period provided in section 509(2), a provider class plan retained by the commissioner as provided in section 506(4) may be modified by the health care corporation after the retention, under either of the following circumstances:

(a) If the plan was prepared by the health care corporation and is not a plan prepared pursuant to section 511(1) or 515(4). However, the modification shall not take effect until after the modification has been filed with the commissioner.

(b) In all other cases, if the modification has been filed with and is agreed to by the commissioner.

(2) A modification made under subsection (1) shall not extend the time periods provided in section 509(1). In developing plan modifications, a health care corporation shall obtain advice and consultation from providers in the relevant provider class and from subscribers pursuant to section 505. Before agreeing to plan modifications under subsection (1)(b), the commissioner shall obtain advice and consultation pursuant to section 505(2).

History: 1980, Act 350, Eff. Apr. 3, 1981

Popular Name: Blue Cross-Blue Shield

Popular Name: Act 350

550.1509 Achievement of goals and objectives; determinations by commissioner.

Sec. 509.

(1) The commissioner may determine if the health care corporation has substantially achieved the goals of a corporation as provided in section 504 and achieved the objectives contained in the provider class plan, at the following times:

(a) For a provider contract or a reimbursement arrangement that was in effect prior to the effective date of this act, upon the expiration of 2 years after the filing date under section 506.

(b) For a provider class plan retained by the commissioner as provided in section 506(4), upon the expiration of 2 years after the earliest effective date of the provider contract or a reimbursement arrangement for the appropriate provider class.

(c) For a class plan retained by the commissioner as provided in section 506(4) that has not been subject to a determination under this section within the time period provided in subsection (2), within 2 years after the expiration of that time period.

(2) Before making a determination under subsection (1), and not later than 30 days following expiration of the appropriate 2-year time period described in subsection (1)(a), (b), or (c), the commissioner shall give written notice to the health care corporation, and to each person who has requested a copy of such notice, that he or she intends to make a determination with respect to a particular provider class plan. The commissioner shall have 6 months to reach a determination under subsection (1).

(3) A modification made pursuant to section 508(1) shall not be taken into consideration for purposes of computing the time periods described in subsections (1) and (2).

(4) The commissioner shall consider all of the following in making a determination pursuant to subsection (1):

(a) Annual reports transmitted pursuant to section 517.

(b) The overall balance of the goals provided in section 504, achieved by the health care corporation under the plan. The commissioner shall give weight to each of the goals provided in section 504, shall not focus on 1 goal independently of the other goals of the corporation, and shall assure that no portion of the corporation's fair share of reasonable costs to the provider are borne by other health care purchasers.

(c) Information submitted or obtained for the record concerning: demographic trends; epidemiological trends; and long-term economic trends, including changes in prices of goods and services purchased by a provider class not already reflected in the calculation in section 504(2)(d); sudden changes in circumstances; administrative agency or judicial actions; changes in health care practices and technology; and changes in benefits that affect the ability of the health care corporation to reasonably achieve the goals provided in section 504.

(d) Health care legislation of this state or of the federal government. As used in this subdivision, "health care legislation" does not include Act No. 218 of the Public Acts of 1956, as amended, being sections 500.100 to 500.8302 of the Michigan Compiled Laws.

(e) Comments received from an individual provider of the appropriate provider group, or from an organization or association that represents the appropriate provider class, and comments received pursuant to section 505(2).

(5) In making a determination pursuant to subsection (1), the commissioner shall provide a detailed statement of findings which support that determination, including a consideration of the information and factors described in subsection (4).

(6) All data, analyses, and factors, quantified or otherwise, at a minimum, shall include the 2-year period being evaluated.

(7) The commissioner shall make a sufficient number of determinations regarding provider class plans under this section, so that during each 3-year period following the effective date of this act, there is a review of provider class plans which, taken together, account for at least 75% of the total corporation payout to providers for the 3-year period.

(8) Determinations by the commissioner shall not be contested case hearings under chapter 4 of the administrative procedures act. This subsection shall not be construed to apply with respect to appeals under section 515.

History: 1980, Act 350, Eff. Apr. 3, 1981

Popular Name: Blue Cross-Blue Shield

Popular Name: Act 350

550.1510 Additional determinations by commissioner.

Sec. 510.

(1) After considering the information and factors described in section 509(4), the goals of a health care corporation as provided in section 504, and the objectives contained in the provider class plan, the commissioner shall determine 1 of the following:

(a) That the provider class plan achieves the goals of the corporation as provided in section 504.

(b) That although the provider class plan does not substantially achieve 1 or more of the goals of the corporation, a change in the provider class plan is not required because there has been competent, material, and substantial information obtained or submitted to support a determination that the failure to achieve 1 or more of the goals was reasonable due to factors listed in section 509(4).

(c) That a provider class plan does not substantially achieve 1 or more of the goals of the corporation as provided in section 504.

(2) The commissioner shall notify the health care corporation, and each person who has requested a copy of such notice, of a determination under subsection (1) by certified or registered mail. Determinations made pursuant to subsection (1)(b) or (c) shall include a concise written statement of specific findings supporting that determination.

(3) An existing provider contract or reimbursement arrangement shall remain in effect until a new provider class plan has been retained and placed into effect as provided in section 506(4). A provider class plan shall not be subject to further review until the expiration of the time period provided in section 509(1).

(4) A provider class plan with respect to which a determination was made under subsection (1)(a) or (b) shall not be subject to further review until the expiration of 2 years following the determination.

History: 1980, Act 350, Eff. Apr. 3, 1981

Compiler's Notes: Near the end of subsection (1), “determined” evidently should read “determine.”

Popular Name: Blue Cross-Blue Shield

Popular Name: Act 350

550.1511 Provider class plan; transmittal to commissioner; preparation by commissioner.

Sec. 511.

(1) Upon receipt of notice under section 510(2), the health care corporation, within 6 months or a period determined by the commissioner pursuant to section 512, shall transmit to the commissioner a provider class plan that substantially achieves the goals, achieves the objectives, and substantially overcomes the deficiencies enumerated in the findings made by the commissioner pursuant to section 510(2). In developing a provider class plan under this subsection, the corporation shall obtain advice and consultation from providers in the provider class and subscribers, using procedures established pursuant to section 505.

(2) If, after the expiration of 6 months or a period determined by the commissioner pursuant to section 512, the health care corporation has failed to act pursuant to subsection (1), the commissioner shall prepare a provider class plan pursuant to section 513(2)(a), for that provider class.

History: 1980, Act 350, Eff. Apr. 3, 1981

Popular Name: Blue Cross-Blue Shield

Popular Name: Act 350

550.1512 Extension of 6-month period provided in MCL 550.511(1); determination.

Sec. 512.

The commissioner may extend the 6-month period provided in section 511(1) once, for not more than 90 days, if the commissioner determines that a health care corporation requires additional time to assess the findings made by the commissioner or to prepare a provider class plan that substantially achieves the goals, achieves the objectives, and substantially overcomes the deficiencies enumerated in the findings. In making a determination under this section, the commissioner shall consider the number of provider class plans, the extent of the changes to each plan, and the stage of development of each plan being prepared by the health care corporation pursuant to section 511(1).

History: 1980, Act 350, Eff. Apr. 3, 1981
Popular Name: Blue Cross-Blue Shield
Popular Name: Act 350

550.1513 Provider class plan; examination; automatic retention; placing plan into effect; preparation of plan by commissioner; notice.

Sec. 513.

(1) Upon receipt of a provider class plan under section 511(1), the commissioner, after considering the information and factors described in section 509(4), within 90 days shall examine the plan and determine if the plan substantially achieves the goals, achieves the objectives, and substantially overcomes the deficiencies enumerated in the findings made by the commissioner. If the commissioner determines that the plan substantially achieves the goals, achieves the objectives, and substantially overcomes the deficiencies enumerated in the findings made by the commissioner, the plan shall be automatically retained and placed into effect as provided in section 506.

(2) If the commissioner determines that the plan does not substantially achieve the goals, does not achieve the objectives, and does not substantially overcome the deficiencies enumerated in the findings made by the commissioner pursuant to section 510(2), the commissioner shall do all of the following:

(a) Prepare a provider class plan that substantially achieves the goals, achieves the objectives, and substantially overcomes the deficiencies enumerated in the findings made pursuant to section 510(2), and transmit that plan to the health care corporation. A provider class plan prepared pursuant to this subdivision shall be retained for the commissioner's records and placed into effect as provided in section 506(4), unless a request for an appeal is made under subdivision (b).

(b) Give written notice to the health care corporation of an opportunity for an appeal pursuant to section 515. The notice shall state that a request for an appeal shall be made by the corporation within 30 days after the receipt of notice under this subdivision.

(3) In making a determination pursuant to subsection (1), or preparing a plan pursuant to subsection (2)(a), the commissioner shall obtain advice and consultation pursuant to section 505(2). The commissioner shall also forward a copy of each notice issued under subsection (2)(b) to each person requesting a copy. The copy shall notify the person of an opportunity for an appeal pursuant to section 515, and that a request for such an appeal is required to be made within 30 days after the receipt of notice given under this subsection.

History: 1980, Act 350, Eff. Apr. 3, 1981
Popular Name: Blue Cross-Blue Shield
Popular Name: Act 350

550.1514 Appeal; selection and qualifications of hearing officer; consolidation; annual report.

Sec. 514.

(1) All appeals under this part shall be held before an independent hearing officer. The state court administrator shall compile and maintain a list of individuals possessing all of the following qualifications:

(a) Is a retired circuit court judge.

(b) Is a resident of this state.

(c) Is not engaged in the provision of health care services.

(d) Is not an officer or employee of a health care provider, health care corporation, or an employee of this state. For purposes of this subdivision, an employee of an educational institution shall not be considered to be employed by this state.

(2) The hearing officer shall be selected at random by the commissioner from the list described in subsection (1), on a per appeal basis. If the individual selected is performing judicial duties, another individual shall be selected.

(3) The hearing officer shall have the power to consolidate appeals related to a provider class.

(4) The commissioner shall prepare and file with the appropriate standing committees of the legislature an annual report regarding the operation of the appeals procedure prescribed in this part, including data regarding the identity of individuals available to serve as independent hearing officers whose names are on the administrator's list; the number of appeals heard; the nature of the controversy involved; the disposition of the appeal; and whether a

judicial appeal was subsequently taken, and the disposition of that appeal.

History: 1980, Act 350, Eff. Apr. 3, 1981

Popular Name: Blue Cross-Blue Shield

Popular Name: Act 350

550.1515 Appeal; parties; request; time; relief; transmittal of provider class plan to hearing officer; determinations.

Sec. 515.

(1) An appeal may be brought from any action or determination of the commissioner under section 509(1), 510(1), or 513(1) or (2), by a subscriber, the health care corporation, the attorney general, an employer, an organization or association representing a subscriber or an employer, or an organization or association representing the affected provider class. An appeal may also be brought by a person whose contractual or legal rights, duties, or privileges are substantially affected. The request for an appeal shall identify the issue or issues which the affected party asserts are involved, and how the party is aggrieved. The independent hearing officer shall determine the standing of any party to appeal.

(2) An appeal from an action or determination of the commissioner under this part shall be brought within 30 days after the action or determination. All appeal hearings shall begin within 30 days after receipt of a request for an appeal. The appeal shall be conducted pursuant to chapter 4 of the administrative procedures act.

(3) In an appeal pursuant to this section, the relief available to a person, and the decision of an independent hearing officer hearing an appeal, shall be limited to the following:

(a) Affirming or reversing a determination of the commissioner under sections 509(1) and 510(1).

(b) Determining, based on the information and factors described in section 509(4) and the standards prescribed in section 516, 1 of the following:

(i) That the provider class plan prepared by the corporation under section 511(1) was prepared in compliance with that section and shall be retained as provided in section 506(4).

(ii) That the provider class plan prepared by the commissioner under section 513(2)(a) was prepared in compliance with that section and shall be retained as provided in section 506(4).

(iii) That a provider class plan described in subparagraph (i) or (ii) was not prepared in compliance with section 511(1) or 513(2)(a), respectively, and shall not be retained as provided in section 506(4). In this case, the hearing officer shall order the corporation to prepare and submit a provider class plan as provided in subsection (4). Detailed findings must accompany the determination made by the hearing officer pursuant to this subdivision.

(4) Within 180 days after receipt of the hearing officer's determination made under subsection (3)(b)(iii), the health care corporation shall transmit to the hearing officer a provider class plan that is in conformance with the findings of the hearing officer and that substantially achieves the goals of a health care corporation as provided in section 504. In developing a provider class plan under this subsection, the corporation shall obtain advice and consultation from providers in the provider class and subscribers, using procedures established pursuant to section 505.

(5) After receipt of a provider class plan transmitted by the health care corporation pursuant to subsection (4), the hearing officer shall determine 1 of the following:

(a) That the provider class plan prepared by the corporation shall be retained as provided in section 506(4).

(b) That the provider class plan prepared by the corporation should not be retained as provided in section 506(4), and the commissioner may suspend or limit the corporation's certificate of authority until the corporation submits a provider class plan which the hearing officer determines should be retained as provided in section 506(4).

History: 1980, Act 350, Eff. Apr. 3, 1981

Popular Name: Blue Cross-Blue Shield

Popular Name: Act 350

550.1516 Provider class plan; standards.

Sec. 516.

(1) All provider class plans retained by the commissioner under section 513 or approved by the hearing officer shall maintain the following standards for all providers:

(a) Responsible cost controls shall exist that balance quality, accessibility, and cost.

(b) The health care corporation shall promote programs and policies which encourage cost-effective behavior by providers in accordance with the provisions of this act, and in accordance with all of the following:

(i) There shall be a reasonable basis for believing that the programs will be effective.

(ii) The programs applicable to a provider class shall be reviewed to avoid duplication or inconsistency, to the extent practicable.

(c) There shall be a fair and reasonable appeals process established and maintained by the health care corporation for aggrieved providers.

(d) There shall be a reasonable period for implementation of changes.

(e) There shall be reasonably prompt payment by the health care corporation to providers who render covered health care services.

(2) In addition to the standards prescribed in subsection (1), the following standards shall apply to hospitals:

(a) To the extent practicable, reimbursement control shall be expressed in the aggregate to individual hospitals.

(b) No portion of the health care corporation's fair share of hospitals' reasonable financial requirements shall be borne by other health care purchasers. However, this subdivision shall not preclude reimbursement arrangements which include financial incentives and disincentives.

(c) The health care corporation's programs and policies shall not unreasonably interfere with the hospital's ability and responsibility to manage its operations.

History: 1980, Act 350, Eff. Apr. 3, 1981

Popular Name: Blue Cross-Blue Shield

Popular Name: Act 350

550.1517 Annual report.

Sec. 517.

A health care corporation shall transmit an annual report for each provider class to the commissioner regarding the level of achievement of the goals provided in section 504. The report shall include data necessary to a determination of the corporation's compliance or noncompliance with the goals, as prescribed in section 504, and compliance with objectives contained in the provider class plan. The report shall be in accordance with forms and instructions prescribed by the commissioner and shall include information as necessary to evaluate the considerations of section 509(4). The report may include other information the corporation deems relevant.

History: 1980, Act 350, Eff. Apr. 3, 1981

Popular Name: Blue Cross-Blue Shield

Popular Name: Act 350

550.1518 Considerations and standards; applicability; appeal.

Sec. 518.

The considerations set forth in section 509(4) and the standards set forth in section 516 shall only apply for purposes of this act and may be appealed only as specifically provided in this act. An appeal from a final determination of an independent hearing officer shall be conducted pursuant to chapter 6 of the administrative procedures act, except that the appeal shall be taken within 30 days after the final determination, upon leave granted, in the court of appeals.

History: 1980, Act 350, Eff. Apr. 3, 1981

Popular Name: Blue Cross-Blue Shield

Popular Name: Act 350

