

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
Center for Consumer Information and Insurance Oversight
200 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, DC 20201



Date: April 12, 2018

Subject: Ending Special Enrollment Periods for Coverage during Calendar Year 2017

Purpose and Scope:

Consistent with our practice in prior years, as of April 1, 2018, CMS is no longer accepting new requests for a Special Enrollment Period (SEP) that would enable consumers to enroll in a Qualified Health Plan (QHP) with 2017 coverage effective dates through the Federally-facilitated Exchanges (FFE), including FFEs where States perform plan management functions, or State-based Exchanges that rely on the Federal Platform to support eligibility and enrollment functions. SEP requests for 2017 coverage that were received on or before March 31, 2018 may be processed by CMS after April 1, 2018. However, as of April 1, 2018, all new SEP requests to CMS seeking 2017 coverage, with the exception of SEPs issued as a result of an eligibility appeal described below, will be given a coverage effective date no earlier than January 1, 2018, if eligible for retroactive coverage.

This guidance applies to all SEPs specified in 45 CFR §155.420(d) and supersedes all guidance on SEPs that conflicts with this policy. This guidance does not apply to eligibility appeals and does not impact a consumers' right to request an appeal of their eligibility determination in accordance with 45 CFR §155.505(b).