

Commonwealth Health Insurance Administrative Bulletin 1-10

Waivers for Individuals Supporting Families in or from Haiti

The Connector will recognize certain specific circumstances not identified in existing regulations as giving rise to financial hardship for an individual sufficient for the Connector a waiver of either a tax penalty under the individual mandate or a waiver for a Commonwealth Care of either enrollee contributions or co-pays.

For calendar year 2010 only, in addition to the hardship criteria currently stated in 956 CMR 3.12(5)(a), the Connector will recognize the following:

An individual must demonstrate, with copies of checks or other financial documents, that he or she has supported family members (defined as grandparents, parents, siblings, children, uncles, aunts, nephews, nieces, or first cousins) who suffered from the earthquake in Haiti that occurred in January, 2010. Those contributions must be materially greater than any contributions or remittances that an individual had made to Haiti relatives in previous years. Alternatively, an individual may demonstrate that he or she has suffered a financial hardship as a result of visiting Haiti after the January, 2010 earthquake in order to assist family members. Similarly, an individual must provide documentation of those expenses that individual has incurred, over and above any customary annual or monthly contributions or remittances to family members, as a consequence of visiting Haiti.

Waivers under this criterion will not be granted after December 31, 2010. In all other respects, this criterion will be applied in the same manner as other waiver criteria under 956 CMR 3.12(5).

