

Administrative Information Bulletin 04-21

Amendment, Based on the American Rescue Plan, to Administrative Bulletin 02-21 Guidance Regarding Extension of Open Enrollment for Calendar Year 2021 Via Special Enrollment Period Due to the Novel Coronavirus SARS-Cov-2, Which Causes the Disease COVID-19

March 19, 2021

The Commonwealth Health Insurance Connector Authority (the “Health Connector”) issued Bulletin 02-2021 on February 3, 2021 to extend Open Enrollment for Calendar Year 2021 to May 23, 2021 by designating a temporary special enrollment period due to the persistent threat of SARS-CoV-2, which causes the disease COVID-19, to the health and welfare of Massachusetts residents. On March 11, 2021 the legislation known as the, “American Rescue Plan,” was signed into law by President Biden. That law contains several provisions that change eligibility rules for access to premium and out-of-pocket reducing subsidies, and otherwise changes the size of potential premium reducing subsidies for eligible members. See, American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, Pub. L. 117-2, H.R. 1319, 117th Cong., §§2305 & 9661-63. The Health Connector believes that these significant mid-year changes to program structure and eligibility requires a further extension of its Open Enrollment period. Therefore, the Health Connector hereby amends the end date of the special enrollment period in Bulletin 02-2021 to be July 23, 2021.

As previously noted in Bulletins 01-2021 & 02-2021, residents of Massachusetts do not need to take special action in order to take advantage of this special enrollment period; it will be available to all applicants otherwise eligible for non-group Health Connector plans.

This Bulletin takes effect immediately.