



POLICY ROAD MAP BACKGROUND MATERIALS

Meaningful Plan Choice

Meaningful Plan Choice

Meaningful Plan Choice or Simple Choice Plans contain a set of guidelines for carriers that certain values must be included in coverage. These guidelines define a scope of value for health insurance.

Simple Choice plans were available on the federal level between 2017 to 2019. During the 2019 open enrollment period the Trump Administration scaled back and did not continue standardizing plans.

Several state exchanges administer their own standardized plans: California, Washington, New York, Massachusetts, D.C., Vermont and Connecticut.

Each State Exchange has different requirements of the carriers for their meaning choice plan design.

Meaningful Plan Choice - Other State Models

California- Only offers standardized plans within their Exchange - Does not allow non-standardized plans to be sold via the Exchange

New York- Requires carriers to offer one standardized plan at each metal level, while carriers can offer non- standardized plans. It can be noted that: “more than 2/3 of people on the exchange selected a standardized plan”.

Massachusetts- All Standardized Plans are offered on the State Exchange, but carriers have the option of offering non standardized plans on the exchange as well.

D.C.- The exchange requires carriers to offer a standardized plan at any metal level they have any other plan type.

Meaningful Plan Choice - Other State Models

Connecticut- the exchange requires the carriers to have a standardized gold, silver and two bronze plans. Just for the silver level the standardized plan must be the lowest cost plan that the carrier offers. If carriers meet the standardized plan requirements, they can also offer two non-standardized platinum plans, and up to three non-standardized plans at bronze and gold level.

Vermont- The Exchange requires a standardized bronze, silver, gold and platinum plans at each level. In the bronze and silver levels additional plans are offered that have HSA compatibility. Only two carriers on the exchange offer non-standardized plan options.

Meaningful Plan Choice - Washington Model

Washington – grouped simple choice plans into their bill on the Public Option. They will leverage the Public Option to set the requirements for their Standardized plan on their Exchange.

Under this, the exchange will be essential in designing the Standardized Plans for the Public Option and across their platform.

All carriers will be required to offer a Silver and Gold level standard plan as of 2021.

These standardized plans helped in setting a minimum of services they wanted to set for their Public Option and across their State plans as a whole.

Meaningful Plan Choice – Reading Materials

A broad overview of Meaningful Choice Plans:

What Are Standardized Health Insurance Plans?

- Louise Norris - <https://www.verywellhealth.com/what-are-standardized-health-insurance-plans-4083066>

A recent history of Standardized Plans across the US:

- Background on the types of coverage Standardized Plans cover from 2014: Standardized Health Plans: Four Tiers of Coverage. (2014). Retrieved from <https://www.hemophiliafed.org/uploads/APLUS-Levels-of-Coverage.pdf>.
- Covered California (State Exchange) in response of the Passage of Standardized Plans. Lee, P. (2015, December 21). Covered California is submitting comments in response to the proposed regulations CMS-9937. The comments in this letter refer to the proposal to standardize Health Plan Options . Retrieved from https://board.coveredca.com/meetings/2016/1-21/CoveredCA_comments_9937-P_Standard_Benefit12-21-15.pdf

Meaningful Plan Choice – Reading Materials

- A research study done by Georgetown University dives into State based Markets and simplified choice benefit designs-
Corlette, S. (2016, July). Missed Opportunities: State Based Marketplaces Fail to Meet Stated Policy Goals of Standardized Benefit Designs.
<https://www.urban.org/sites/default/files/publication/82611/2000862-Missed-Opportunities-State-Based-Marketplaces-Fail-to-Meet-Stated-Policy-Goals-of-Standardized-Benefit-Designs.pdf>
- A background of the previous Standard Plan offerings on the FFM.
'Simple Choice Plans' To Debut In 2017 Marketplace Enrollment
Michelle Andrews (2016, September) - <https://khn.org/news/simple-choice-plans-to-debut-in-2017-marketplace-enrollment/>
- President Trump's changes to the FFM and the Simple Choice Plans.
Sara Collins - <https://www.commonwealthfund.org/blog/2018/trump-administrations-new-marketplace-rules-regulatory-simplification-or-more-complexity>