Mississippi Health Insurance Exchange Advisory Board

Mississippi Insurance Department
Commissioner Mike Chaney

November 14, 2012
Jackson, Mississippi
Updates & Announcements
Adoption of Meeting Minutes from October 10, 2012; Employer Participation Final Recommendations Report; and Procedures to Elect/Appoint New Advisory Board Members
Initial Findings from Advisory Subcommittees on Exchange Market Regulation
Market Participation

• Should carriers participate in both the individual and small group markets?

  – Pros:
    ▪ Potentially increases the quantity of coverage options
    ▪ Encourages market parity

  – Cons:
    ▪ Discourages carrier participation
    ▪ Excludes some carriers who currently participate in only one of the two markets
Market Participation

– Other Subcommittee Findings:

- If carriers choose to participate in small group market, they should be required to participate in the individual market

- Require carriers to participate in the same markets inside the Exchange that they do outside the Exchange

- Let carriers choose where to participate
Plan Offerings

• Carriers are required under Federal law to offer one plan at the silver and gold levels. Should they be required to offer more?
  
  – Pros: increases coverage options
  
  – Cons: may discourage carrier participation, resulting in limited coverage choices
Plan Offerings

– Other Subcommittee Findings:

- Carriers will still offer bronze and platinum plans in response to market demand, even without a mandate

- Carriers should be allowed to offer additional levels at their discretion, but should not be mandated

- The more flexibility given to carriers, the more opportunities they have to operate in the Exchange
Plan Coverage Area

• Should health plans be required to be offered statewide, as opposed to being offered as regional coverage?

  — Pros: Minimizes opportunities for insurers to avoid offering coverage in higher risk regions

  — Cons:
    ▪ May disrupt current market practices
    ▪ May create a barrier to entry
Plan Coverage Area

– Other Subcommittee Findings:

 Would like to hear input from carriers

 Carriers should cover the same areas inside the Exchange that they do outside the Exchange
Standardization

• Standardization of plans
  – Should not be standardized
  – Carriers should be given room for creativity

• Standardization of plan presentation format
  – Comparison view should be “apples to apples”
  – Consumers should be able to see plan exclusions
Other Discussions

• Additional Plan Certification Requirements
  – Ensure provider network is adequate

• Minimum federal requirements could be adopted as initial guidelines, and adjustments made later to address market changes as the Exchange develops
Discussion Themes

• Goal: Flexibility & options in the marketplace

• Minimal Regulations
  – Flexibility for carriers to encourage participation
  – Avoid regulations that may exclude or discourage carriers from participation
    ▪ More carriers mean more coverage options and broadly shared risk
  – Balance the desire for “minimal regulations” with the need for regulations that prevent carriers from “cherry-picking” markets or coverage regions
Exchange Market Regulation
Advisory Board Discussion
Other Business & Closing Remarks
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