



Washington Health Benefit Exchange Comments: Proposed Office of Personnel Management Rules – Health Insurance for Members of Congress and Staff

September 10, 2013

The Washington Health Benefit Exchange (WHBE) is pleased to submit comments to the Office of Personnel Management on the proposed rules on the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA): Health Insurance for Members of Congress and Staff.

Government contributions (Section 890.501)

As a state-based Exchange, we expect to be affected by the proposed rules because certain Congress members and congressional staff may be residents of Washington State and seek coverage through the Washington Exchange as set forth in the rules. The proposed rule does not address the manner in which the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) will provide premium payments to Exchanges for Congress members' and congressional staffers' health insurance coverage. The Washington State Exchange system does not have the ability to accept partial premium payments or lump sum payments for multiple months of coverage. Therefore, we hope to work with OPM to receive full monthly premiums for coverage under qualified health plans (QHPs) for members of Congress and staff, as well as any family members who will be covered under the same QHP as a Congress member or staff.