



STATE OF NEW YORK
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P.O. Box 11729
Albany, NY 12211

Notice of Decision

Decision Date: November 3, 2017

NY State of Health Account ID: [REDACTED]
Appeal Identification Number: AP000000020668 and AP000000020669

[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED],

On September 26, 2017, you both appeared by telephone at a hearing on [REDACTED] appeal of NY State of Health's July 13, 2017 cancellation notice and July 20, 2017 eligibility determination notice.

The enclosed Decision, rendered after that hearing, is issued by the Appeals Unit of NY State of Health.

If you have questions about your Decision, you can contact us by:

- Calling the Customer Service Center at 1-855-355-5777
- Sending Mail to:
NY State of Health Appeals
P.O. Box 11729
Albany, NY 12211
- Sending a Fax to 1-855-900-5557

When contacting NY State of Health about your appeal and/or the Decision, please refer to the Appeal Identification number and the Account ID at the top of this notice.

Legal Authority

We are sending you this notice in accordance with 45 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) § 155.545.

If you need this information in a language other than English or you need assistance reading this notice, we can help you. Call 1-855-355-5777 (TTY - English: 1-800-662-1220) (TTY - Spanish: 1-877-662-4886).

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Decision Date: November 3, 2017

NY State of Health Account ID: [REDACTED]
Appeal Identification Number: AP000000020668 and AP000000020669



Issues

The issues presented for review by the Appeals Unit of NY State of Health are:

Did NY State of Health (NYSOH) properly terminate your qualified health plan for non-payment of premium, effective May 31, 2017?

Did NYSOH properly determine that you did not qualify to enroll in a qualified health plan outside of the open enrollment period as of September 1, 2017?

Procedural History

On November 1, 2016, NYSOH issued a renewal eligibility determination notice stating that you were still qualified to purchase a health plan at full cost, effective January 1, 2017.

On December 15, 2016, NYSOH issued a plan enrollment notice confirming your enrollment in a gold-level qualified health plan, with a \$770.16 monthly premium and a plan enrollment start date of January 1, 2017.

On July 13, 2017, NYSOH issued a disenrollment notice stating that your enrollment in your gold-level qualified health plan was terminated, effective May 31, 2017, because a premium payment had not been received by the health plan by the payment deadline.

If you need this information in a language other than English or you need assistance reading this notice, we can help you. Call 1-855-355-5777 (TTY - English: 1-800-662-1220) (TTY - Spanish: 1-877-662-4886).

On July 19, 2017, NYSOH received your updated application for health insurance. That day, a preliminary eligibility determination was prepared finding you eligible to purchase a qualified health plan at full cost through NYSOH, effective September 1, 2017. You also attempted to enroll into a qualified health plan but were unable to select a plan for enrollment.

Also on July 19, 2017, you spoke to NYSOH's Account Review Unit and appealed your inability to enroll into a qualified health plan outside of the open enrollment period.

On July 20, 2017, NYSOH issued an eligibility determination notice stating that you were eligible to purchase a qualified health plan at full cost through NYSOH, effective September 1, 2017. It further stated that you did not qualify to select a health plan outside of the open enrollment period for 2017.

On September 26, 2017, you had a telephone hearing with a Hearing Officer from NYSOH's Appeals Unit. During the Hearing, you appointed [REDACTED] to act as your authorized representative (AR) and he assisted you in your testimony. The record was developed during the hearing and closed at the end of the hearing.

Findings of Fact

A review of the record supports the following findings of fact:

- 1) You were enrolled in a gold-level qualified health plan for the 2017 coverage year with a monthly premium of \$770.16, effective January 1, 2017.
- 2) You testified that you paid your premiums to your health plan by automatic monthly payment from your bank account.
- 3) Your AR testified that he is [REDACTED] at your bank. He testified that there had been fraudulent activity detected on your account and your account was put in a "hold" status. This hold status stopped further automatic payments from being sent out of that account and this resulted in the June 2017 health insurance premium not being sent.
- 4) You testified that you were not aware that a hold was placed on your account and that the automatic monthly premium payments were not being made to your health plan.
- 5) You testified that you were not aware your health insurance had been cancelled until you went to [REDACTED] in June 2017 [REDACTED] office told you your insurance had lapsed.

- 6) You testified that you spoke with the health plan and they would not accept your late payment or reinstate your coverage. The health plan told you to contact NYSOH.
- 7) You were disenrolled from your gold-level qualified health plan, effective May 31, 2017.
- 8) On July 19, 2017, you contacted NYSOH to re-enroll into a qualified health plan but were unable to do so.
- 9) You testified that you have been without health insurance since June 1, 2017.
- 10) You testified that you need [REDACTED] and that you want to enroll in a qualified health plan as soon as possible.
- 11) You testified that since the end of the open enrollment period of January 31, 2017, and since your updated application of July 19, 2017, there have been no other major changes to your household.

Conflicting evidence, if any, was considered and found to be less credible than the evidence noted above.

Applicable Law and Regulations

Appealable Issues

An applicant has the right to appeal to NYSOH's Appeals Unit: (1) an eligibility determination, including the amount of advance payments of the premium tax credit and level of cost-sharing reductions; (2) a redetermination of eligibility, including the amount of advance payments of the premium tax credit and level of cost-sharing reductions; (3) a failure by NYSOH to provide timely notice of an eligibility determination 45 CFR § 155.505; and (4) a denial of a request for a special enrollment period (45 CFR § 155.505(b)(1)(iii), 45 CFR § 155.305(b), and 45 CFR § 155.420(d)).

Enrollment in a Qualified Health Plan

NYSOH must provide annual open enrollment periods during which time qualified individuals may enroll in a qualified health plan and enrollees may change qualified health plans (45 CFR § 155.410(a)(1)).

For the benefit year beginning on January 1, 2017, the annual open enrollment period began on November 1, 2016, and extended through January 31, 2017 (45 CFR § 155.410(e)(2)).

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Special Enrollment Periods

After each open enrollment period ends, NYSOH provides special enrollment periods to qualified individuals. During a special enrollment period, a qualified individual may enroll in a qualified health plan, and an enrollee may change their enrollment to another plan. This is generally permitted when one of the following triggering events occur:

- (1) The qualified individual or his or her dependent either:
 - (i) Loses minimum essential coverage.
 - (ii) Is enrolled in any non-calendar year group health plan or individual health insurance coverage, even if the qualified individual or his or her dependent has the option to renew such coverage.
 - (iii) Loses pregnancy-related coverage.
 - (iv) Loses medically needy coverage as described under section 1902(a)(10)(C) of the Social Security Act only once per calendar year.
- (2)(i) The qualified individual gains a dependent or becomes a dependent through marriage, birth, adoption, placement for adoption, or placement in foster care, or through a child support order or other court order.
 - (ii) the enrollee loses a dependent or is no longer considered a dependent through divorce or legal separation as defined by State law in the State in which the divorce or legal separation occurs, or if the enrollee, or his or her dependent, dies.
- (3) The qualified individual, or his or her dependent, becomes newly eligible for enrollment in a qualified health plan because he or she gains citizenship, status as a national, or lawful present or is no longer incarcerated.
- (4) The qualified individual's or his or her dependent's, enrollment or non-enrollment in a qualified health plan is unintentional, inadvertent, or erroneous and is the result of the error, misrepresentation, misconduct, or inaction of an officer, employee, or agent of NYSOH, its instrumentalities, or a non-NYSOH entity providing enrollment assistance or conducting enrollment activities.
- (5) The enrollee or, his or her dependent adequately demonstrates to NYSOH that the qualified health plan in which he or she is enrolled

substantially violated a material provision of its contract in relation to the enrollee;

(6) The enrollee or enrollee's dependent is newly eligible or ineligible for advance payments of the premium tax credit, or change in eligibility for cost-sharing reductions.

(7) The qualified individual or enrollee, or his or her dependent, gains access to new qualified health plan as a result of a permanent move and either—

(i) Had minimum essential coverage for one or more days during the 60 days preceding the date of the permanent move, or

(ii) Was living outside of the United States or in a United States territory at the time of the permanent move;

(8) The qualified individual or dependent who gains or maintains status as an Indian may enroll in a qualified health plan or change from one plan to another, once per month.

(9) The qualified individual or enrollee, or his or her dependent, demonstrates to the Exchange, in accordance with guidelines issued by HHS, that the individual meets other exceptional circumstances as the Exchange may provide;

(10) A qualified individual or enrollee—

(i) Is a victim of domestic abuse or spousal abandonment, including a dependent or unmarried victim within a household, is enrolled in minimum essential coverage and seeks to enroll in coverage separate from the perpetrator of the abuse or abandonment; or

(ii) Is a dependent of a victim of domestic abuse or spousal abandonment, on the same application as the victim, may enroll in coverage at the same time as the victim;

(11) A qualified individual or dependent—

(i) Applies for coverage through NYSOH during the annual open enrollment period or due to a qualifying event, is assessed as potentially eligible for Medicaid or Child Health Plus and is determined ineligible for Medicaid or Child Health Plus either after open enrollment has ended or more than 60 days after the qualifying event; or

(ii) Applies for coverage at their Local Department of Social Services or Human Resources Administration during the annual open enrollment period, and is determined ineligible for Medicaid or Child Health Plus after open enrollment has ended;

(12) The qualified individual or enrollee, or his or her dependent, adequately demonstrates to NYSOH that a material error related to plan benefits, service area, or premium influenced the qualified individual's or enrollee's decision to purchase a qualified health plan; or

(13) At the option of NYSOH, the qualified individual provides satisfactory documentary evidence to verify his or her eligibility for an insurance affordability program or enrollment following termination of enrollment due to a failure to verify such status within 90 days. NYSOH has not elected to adopt this subsection at this time.

(45 CFR § 155.420(d)).

Generally, if a triggering life event occurs, the qualified individual or enrollee has 60 days from the date of a triggering event to select a qualified health plan (45 CFR § 155.420(c)(1)).

However, a loss of health insurance coverage such as that referenced above does not include,

“voluntary termination of coverage or other loss due to—

(1) Failure to pay premiums on a timely basis, including COBRA premiums prior to expiration of COBRA coverage, or

(2) Situations allowing for a rescission as specified in 45 CFR [§] 147.128” such as failure to comply with other requirements (45 CFR § 147.128(b))

(45 CFR § 155.420(e)).

Legal Analysis

The first issue under review is whether NYSOH properly terminated your gold-level qualified health plan for non-payment of premium effective, May 31, 2017.

On December 15, 2016, you were enrolled in a gold level qualified health plan for the 2017 coverage year with a monthly premium of \$770.16, effective January 1, 2017.

You testified that you paid your premiums to your health plan by automatic monthly payments from your bank account. Your AR, who is [REDACTED] of the bank, testified that there was fraudulent activity detected and a “hold” was placed on the account. This hold resulted in no further automatic payments being sent from the account. The automatic health insurance premium payment for June 2017 was not sent by the bank to the health plan as a result of the hold on the account. You first learned that your health insurance had been terminated was when you went to [REDACTED] in June 2017 and they told you that your health insurance had lapsed. You testified that you contacted the health plan and they would not accept a late payment and would not reinstate your coverage.

On July 13, 2017, NYSOH issued a notice stating that you were disenrolled from your health plan for non-payment of the premium, effective May 31, 2017.

NYSOH Appeals Unit only has the authority to review issues related to the following: (1) an eligibility determination, including the amount of advance payments of the premium tax credit and level of cost-sharing reductions, (2) a redetermination of eligibility, including the amount of advance payments of the premium tax credit and level of cost-sharing reductions, (3) a failure to provide timely notice of an eligibility determination, and (4) a denial of a special enrollment period.

Since the Appeals Unit is not given the authority to review termination of enrollment due to non-payment of premiums, we cannot reach the merits as to whether you were properly terminated from your health plan for non-payment of premiums. Therefore, your appeal of the July 13, 2017 cancellation notice is DISMISSED as a non-appealable issue.

The second issue under review is whether NYSOH properly determined that you did not qualify to enroll in a qualified health plan outside of the open enrollment period, effective September 1, 2017.

NYSOH provided an open enrollment period from November 1, 2016 until January 31, 2017. On July 19, 2017, after the open enrollment period ended, you updated your NYSOH account and submitted a request to re-enroll in a qualified health plan, but were unable to do so.

Once the annual open enrollment period ends, a health plan enrollee must qualify for a special enrollment period in order to enroll in, or change to another health plan offered in NYSOH. In order to qualify for a special enrollment period, a person must experience a triggering event.

Though you did lose health coverage effective May 31, 2017 as stated in the July 13, 2017 disenrollment notice, the loss of health insurance coverage in this case cannot be considered a triggering event for a special enrollment period, because

it was a result of non-payment of your premiums. NYSOH considers nonpayment of premiums to be a voluntary action causing the termination of your coverage.

The credible evidence of record indicates that, since the open enrollment period closed on January 31, 2017, and since your updated application of July 19, 2017, you have not experience a triggering event that would qualify you for a special enrollment period as of the date of the hearing. As such, there is no evidence in the record to establish grounds for a special enrollment period.

Therefore, the July 20, 2017 eligibility determination notice, to the extent it denied you a special enrollment period, was correct and is AFFIRMED.

Decision

Your appeal of the July 13, 2017 disenrollment notice is DISMISSED as a non-appealable issue.

The July 20, 2017 eligibility determination notice, to the extent it denied you a special enrollment period, was correct and is AFFIRMED.

Effective Date of this Decision: November 3, 2017

How this Decision Affects Your Eligibility

Your enrollment in your gold-level qualified health plan ended as of May 31, 2017.

You did not qualify for a special enrollment period as of September 1, 2017 nor at this time.

If You Disagree with this Decision (Appeal Rights)

This Decision is final unless you submit an appeal request to the Federal Marketplace or bring a lawsuit under New York Civil Practice Law and Rules, Article 78.

You may bring a lawsuit on any Appeals Unit decision in New York State court in accordance with Article 78 of the New York Civil Practice Law and Rules. This must be done within four months of the Decision Date, which appears on the first page of this Decision.

If you need this information in a language other than English or you need assistance reading this notice, we can help you. Call 1-855-355-5777 (TTY - English: 1-800-662-1220) (TTY – Spanish: 1-877-662-4886).

Additionally, Appeals Unit decisions on issues involving eligibility for qualified health plans, advance premium tax credits, and cost-sharing reductions may be appealed to the Federal Marketplace. This must be done within 30 days of the Decision Date, which appears on the first page of this Decision (45 CFR § 155.520(c)).

If you have questions about appealing to the Federal Marketplace, you can contact them in any of the following ways:

- By calling the Customer Service Center at 1-800-318-2596
- By mail at:
Health Insurance Marketplace
Attn: Appeals
465 Industrial Blvd.
London, KY 40750-0061
- By fax: 1-877-369-0129

If you wish to be represented by an attorney in bringing an outside appeal and do not know how to go about getting one, you may contact legal resources available to you. You may, for example, contact the local County Bar Association, Legal Aid, or Legal Services.

If You Have Questions about this Decision (Customer Service Resources):

You can contact us in any of the following ways:

- By calling the Customer Service Center at 1-855-355-5777
- By mail at:
NY State of Health Appeals
P.O. Box 11729
Albany, NY 12211
- By fax: 1-855-900-5557

Summary

Your appeal of the July 13, 2017 disenrollment notice is **DISMISSED** as a non-appealable issue.

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The July 20, 2017 eligibility determination notice, to the extent it denied you a special enrollment period, was correct and is AFFIRMED.

Your enrollment in your gold-level qualified health plan ended as of May 31, 2017.

You did not qualify for a special enrollment period as of September 1, 2017 nor at this time.

Legal Authority

We are issuing this determination in accordance with 45 CFR § 155.545.

A Copy of this Decision Has Been Provided To:



Getting Help in a Language Other than English

This is an important document. If you need help to understand it, please call 1-855-355-5777. We can give you an interpreter for free in the language you speak.

Español (Spanish)

Este es un documento importante. Si necesita ayuda para entenderlo, llame al 1-855-355-5777. Le proporcionaremos un intérprete sin ningún costo.

中文 (Traditional Chinese)

這是重要的文件。如果您需要獲得關於瞭解文件內容方面的協助，請致電 1-855-355-5777。我們可以為您免費提供您所使用語言的翻譯人員。

Kreyòl Ayisyen (Haitian Creole)

Sa a se yon dokiman ki enpòtan. Si ou bezwen èd pou konprann li, tanpri rele nimewo 1-855-355-5777. Nou kapab ba ou yon entèprèt gratis nan lang ou pale a.

中文 (Simplified Chinese)

这是一份重要的文件。如果您需要帮助理解此文件，请打电话至 1-855-355-5777。我们可以为您免费提供相应语种的口译服务。

Italiano (Italian)

Questo è un documento importante. Per qualsiasi chiarimento può chiamare il numero 1-855-355-5777. Possiamo metterle a disposizione un interprete nella sua lingua.

한국어 (Korean)

중요한 서류입니다. 이해하는 데 도움이 필요하시면 1-855-355-5777 번으로 연락해 주십시오. 귀하의 언어에 대한 무료 통역 서비스가 제공됩니다.

Русский (Russian)

Это важный документ. Если Вам нужна помощь для понимания этого документа, позвоните по телефону 1-855-355-5777. Мы можем бесплатно предоставить Вам переводчика Вашего языка.

العربية (Arabic)

هذه وثيقة مهمة. إذا كنت بحاجة إلى مساعدة لفهم محتواها، يُرجى الاتصال بالرقم 1-855-355-5777. يُمكننا توفير مترجم فوري لك باللغة التي تتحدثها مجاناً.

বাংলা (Bengali)

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এটি এক গুরুত্বপূর্ণ নথি। এটি বুঝতে আপনার যদি সাহায্যের প্রয়োজন হয় তাহলে, অনুগ্রহ করে 1-855-355-5777 নম্বরে কল করুন। আপনি যে ভাষায় কথা বলেন বিনামূল্যে আমরা আপনাকে একজন দোভাষী দিতে পারি।

Français (French)

Ceci est un document important. Si vous avez besoin d'aide pour en comprendre le contenu, appelez le 1-855-355-5777. Nous pouvons mettre gratuitement à votre disposition un interprète dans votre langue.

हिंदी (Hindi)

यह एक महत्वपूर्ण दस्तावेज़ है। अगर आपको इसे समझने में सहायता चाहिए, तो कृपया 1-855-355-5777 पर कॉल करें। हम आपकी भाषा बोलने वाला एक दुभाषिया निःशुल्क उपलब्ध करवा सकते हैं।

日本語 (Japanese)

これは重要な書類です。理解するために支援が必要な場合は、1-855-355-5777 にお電話ください。通訳を無料で提供いたします。

नेपाली (Nepali)

यो एउटा महत्वपूर्ण कागजात हो। यसलाई बुझ्न तपाईंलाई मद्दत चाहिन्छ भने, कृपया 1-855-355-5777 मा फोन गर्नुहोस्। हामीले तपाईंले बोल्ने भाषामा तपाईंलाई निःशुल्क दोभाषे उपलब्ध गराउन सक्छौं।

Polski (Polish)

To jest ważny dokument. W przypadku konieczności skorzystania z pomocy w celu zrozumienia jego treści należy zadzwonić pod numer 1-855-355-5777. Istnieje możliwość uzyskania bezpłatnej usługi tłumacza języka, którym się posługujesz.

Twi (Twi)

Krataa yi ye tow krataa a ho hia. Se wo hia eho nkyerekyeremu a, ye sre wo, fre 1-855-355-5777. ye bɛtumi ama wo obi a okyerɛ kasa a woka no ase ama wo kwa a wontua hwee.

(Urdu) اردو

یہ ایک اہم دستاویز ہے۔ اگر آپ کو اسے سمجھنے کے لیے مدد کی ضرورت ہے تو براہ کرم 1-855-355-5777 پر کال کریں۔ ہم آپ کو آپ کی مادری زبان میں ایک مفت مترجم فراہم کر سکتے ہیں۔

Tiếng Việt (Vietnamese)

Đây là tài liệu quan trọng. Nếu quý vị cần trợ giúp để hiểu tài liệu này, vui lòng gọi 1-855-355-5777. Chúng tôi có thể cung cấp thông dịch viên miễn phí nói ngôn ngữ của quý vị.

אידיש (Yiddish)

דאס איז א וויכטיגער דאקומענט. אויב איר דארפט הילף עס צו פארשטיין, ביטע רופט 1-855-355-5777. מיר קענען אייך געבן א דאלמענטשער פריי פון אפצאל אין די שפראך וואס איר רעדט.

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