

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

#### **Notice of Decision**

Decision Date: December 26, 2017

NY State of Health Account ID: Appeal Identification Number: AP000000023516





On December 19, 2017, you appeared by telephone at a hearing on your appeal of NY State of Health's October 20, 2017 plan disenrollment 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.



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

#### **Decision**

Decision Date: December 26, 2017

NY State of Health Account ID:

Appeal Identification Number: AP000000023516



#### Issue

The issue presented for review by the Appeals Unit of NY State of Health is:

Did NY State of Health properly determine that your enrollment in your qualified health plan ended effective November 30, 2017?

# **Procedural History**

On December 6, 2016, NY State of Health (NYSOH) issued an eligibility determination notice stating that you were eligible to purchase a qualified health plan at full cost through NYSOH, effective January 1, 2017.

Also on December 6, 2017, NYSOH issued a plan enrollment notice confirming your enrollment in a qualified health plan, effective January 1, 2017.

On October 19, 2017, you contacted NYSOH to request that you be disenrolled from your qualified health plan. That day you were informed that you were disenrolled from your qualified health plan, effective November 30, 2017.

Also on October 19, 2017, you contacted the NYSOH's Account Review Unit and appealed the date you were disenrolled from your qualified health plan, requesting that the disenrollment be made effective October 31, 2017.

On October 20, 2017, NYSOH issued a discontinuance notice stating that you were no longer eligible to enroll in health insurance through NYSOH, effective December 1, 2017. This notice further stated that this was because you no longer wanted to receive coverage.

Also on October 20, 2017, NYSOH issued a plan disenrollment notice indicating that coverage in your qualified health plan would end effective November 30, 2017.

On December 19, 2017, you had a telephone hearing with a Hearing Officer from the NYSOH's Appeals Unit. The record was developed during the hearing and the record was closed at the end of the hearing.

### **Findings of Fact**

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

1) You testified that you stopped working on

- 2) You testified that you first contacted your qualified health plan to disenroll from your plan in early October 2017.
- 3) You testified that when you contacted your qualified health plan, they asked you for your account information and told you that your disenrollment would be taken care of.
- 4) You testified that you contacted NYSOH to disenroll yourself from your qualified health plan after you received a bill in mid-October 2017 from your qualified health plan and were informed that you had to call NYSOH to disenroll from coverage.
- 5) The record indicates that the first time you contacted NYSOH to disenroll from your qualified health plan was on October 19, 2017.
- 6) You testified that you paid all of your premiums on time up to November 2017, but that you did not pay for November 2017 coverage.
- 7) You testified that you did not use your qualified health plan in the month of November 2017.
- 8) You testified that you are seeking retroactive disenrollment from your qualified health plan, effective October 31, 2017, because you do not have the money to pay for your November 2017 premium.

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

## **Applicable Law and Regulations**

#### Termination of a Qualified Health Plan

NYSOH must permit an enrollee to terminate his or her coverage with a qualified health plan coverage, with appropriate notice to the NYSOH or qualified health plan (45 CFR § 155.430(b)(1)(i)).

For enrollee-initiated terminations, the last day of coverage is either:

- The termination date specified by the enrollee, if the enrollee provides reasonable notice (at least 14 days before the requested termination date);
- 2) Fourteen days after the enrollee requests the termination, if they do not provide reasonable notice; or
- On a date on or after the date the enrollee requests the termination, if the enrollee's qualified health plan issuer and the enrollee agree to such a date

(45 CFR § 155.430(d)(2)(i)-(iii)).

NYSOH must permit an enrollee to retroactively terminate or cancel their enrollment in a qualified health plan if:

- The enrollee demonstrates that they attempted to terminate their coverage and experienced a technical error that did not allow the coverage to be terminated, and requests retroactive termination within 60 days after they discovered the technical error.
- 2) The enrollment in the qualified health plan was unintentional, inadvertent, or erroneous and was the result of the error or misconduct of an officer, employee, or agent of NYSOH or HHS, its instrumentalities, or a non-NYSOH entity providing enrollment assistance or conducting enrollment activities. Such enrollee must request cancellation within 60 days of discovering the unintentional, inadvertent, or erroneous enrollment.
- 3) The enrollee was enrolled in a qualified health plan without their knowledge or consent by any third party, including third parties who have no connection with the Exchange, and requests cancellation within 60 days of discovering of the enrollment.

(45 CFR § 155.430(b)(2)(iv)(A-C)).

NYSOH permits a qualified health plan to terminate an individual's coverage if (1) the enrollee is no longer eligible for coverage or (2) non-payment of the premiums by the enrollee (45 CFR § 155.430(b)(2)(i)-(ii)).

## **Legal Analysis**

The issue under review is whether NYSOH properly determined that your enrollment in your qualified health plan ended effective November 30, 2017.

On December 6, 2016, NYSOH issued eligibility determination and plan enrollment notices stating respectively that you were eligible to purchase a qualified health plan at full cost and were enrolled in a qualified health plan, effective January 1, 2017.

On October 20, 2017, NYSOH issue a disenrollment notice indicating you would be disenrolled from your qualified health plan, effective November 30, 2017. You testified that you are seeking retroactive disenrollment from your qualified health plan to be effective October 31, 2017.

NYSOH must permit an enrollee to be retroactively disenroll from their qualified health plan if the enrollee demonstrates that there was a technical error that should have allowed them to terminate coverage earlier, or if their enrollment in the plan was unintentional, inadvertent, or erroneous and was the result of the error or misconduct of an officer, employee, or agent of NYSOH, its instrumentalities, or a non-NYSOH entity providing enrollment assistance or conducting enrollment activities, or the enrollee was enrolled into a qualified health plan without their knowledge or consent by a third party.

There is no indication in the record that your enrollment in a qualified health plan, as confirmed in the December 6, 2016 plan enrollment notice, was unintentional, inadvertent, or erroneous, nor was your enrollment in a qualified health plan the result of the error or misconduct of an officer, employee, or agent of NYSOH, its instrumentalities, or a non-NYSOH entity providing enrollment assistance or conducting enrollment activities. Furthermore, there is no indication that your enrollment in a qualified health plan, as confirmed in the December 6, 2016 plan enrollment notice, was without your knowledge or consent.

Therefore, there is no basis to find that NYSOH must permit you to retroactively terminate or cancel your enrollment in a qualified health plan.

You testified that you contacted your qualified health plan, to request disenrollment in early October 2017 and again on October 19, 2017. You further testified that you did not know that the procedure was that you had to speak with NYSOH to request disenrollment until you were informed by your qualified health plan that you needed to contact NYSOH after receiving a bill in mid-October

2017 for your November 2017 premium. The record reflects that, on October 19, 2017, you contacted NYSOH and requested that you be disenrolled from your qualified health plan as you no longer wanted to remain enrolled.

Enrollees must be allowed to terminate their coverage with a qualified health plan at the date they specify if they provide reasonable notice to NYSOH or to their health plan. Reasonable notice is defined as at least 14 days prior to the requested termination date.

Although you testified you were seeking to have your enrollment terminated as of October 31, 2017, according to the above regulations, you failed to provide reasonable notice of your request to disenroll, that is, 14 days' notice before the termination date. To have an October 31, 2017 disenrollment date, your request to be disenrolled from your qualified health plan had to be made no later than October 17, 2017. Since you did not request to be disenrolled until October 19, 2017, your enrollment in your qualified health plan properly ended on November 30, 2017.

Accordingly, the October 20, 2017 plan disenrollment notice stating that your enrollment in your qualified health plan would end as of November 30, 2017, is correct and must be AFFIRMED.

#### **Decision**

The October 20, 2017 plan disenrollment notice is AFFIRMED.

Effective Date of this Decision: December 26, 2017

# **How this Decision Affects Your Eligibility**

This decision does not change your disenrollment date. Your enrollment in your qualified health plan ended as of November 30, 2017.

# 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.

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

The October 20, 2017 plan disenrollment notice is AFFIRMED.

This decision does not change your disenrollment date. Your enrollment in your qualified health plan ended as of November 30, 2017.

# **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.

#### <u>한국어 (Korean)</u>

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.

#### (Arabic)العربية

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

#### বাংলা (Bengali)

এটি এক গুরুত্বপূর্ণ নিখি। 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।

#### <u>日本語 (Japanese)</u>

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 महत्त्वपूर्ण कागजात हो। यसलाई बुझ्न तपाईंलाई मद्दत चाहिन्छ भने, कृपया 1-855-355-5777 मा फोन गर्नुहोस्। हामीले तपाईंले बोल्ने भाषामा तपाईंलाई नि:शूल्क दोभाषे उपलब्ध गराउन सक्छों।

#### 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. yebetumi ama wo obi a okyere kasa a woka no ase ama wo kwa a wontua hwee.

#### اردو(Urdu)

یہ ایک اہم دستاویز ہے۔ اگر آپ کو اسے سمجھنے کے لیے مدد کی ضرورت ہے تو براہ کرم5777-355-485-1 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 דאלמעטשער פריי פון אפצאל אין די שפראך וואס איר רעדט.