

APPENDIX B: ESSENTIAL HEALTH BENEFITS (EHB)-BENCHMARK PLAN ACTUARIAL CERTIFICATE TEMPLATE

Instructions for Completing Appendix B:

Under §156.111(e)(2), States must submit an actuarial certification as part of the EHB-benchmark selection process affirming that the State's EHB-benchmark plan:

- provides a scope of benefits that is equal to, or greater than, to the extent any supplementation is required to provide coverage within each EHB category at §156.111(a), the scope of benefits provided under a typical employer plan as defined at §156.111(b)(2)(i); and
- does not exceed the generosity of the most generous among plans listed at §156.111(b)(2)(ii)(A) and (B).

States must complete all fields of this actuarial certification. CMS will consider any partial or blank fields as incomplete. The actuarial report associated with this certification must be submitted as an attachment. Actuarial reports should be uploaded in a format that prevents further editing after submission. For example, States can scan copies of the Actuarial Report or convert documents into a PDF format to upload

SECTION 1: BACKGROUND INFORMATION

State

Michigan

1. Which EHB-benchmark plan option (at 45 CFR §156.111(a)) is the State using to make changes to its EHB-benchmark plan? *(Only provide one selection)*

- ☐ (a)(1) - Selecting the EHB-benchmark plan that another State used for the 2017 plan year under §156.100 and §156.110
- ☐ (a)(2) - Replacing one or more categories of EHBs under §156.110(a) under its EHB-benchmark plan used for the 2017 plan year with the same category or categories of EHB from the EHB-benchmark plan that another State used for the 2017 plan year under §156.100 and §156.110.
- ☒ (a)(3) - Otherwise selecting a set of benefits that would become the State's EHB-benchmark plan.

SECTION 2: TYPICAL EMPLOYER PLANS DETERMINATION FOR §156.111(b)(2)(i)

2. Which definition of a typical employer plan at §156.111(b)(2)(i) was used for the determination under this actuarial certification and associated report? *(Only provide one selection)*

- ☐ One of the selecting State's 10 benchmark plan options established at §156.100 of this subpart, and available for the selecting State's selection for the 2017 plan year.
- ☒ The largest health insurance plan by enrollment within one of the five largest large group health insurance products by enrollment in the State, as product and plan are defined at §144.103, provided that: (1) The product has at least ten percent of the enrollment among the five largest large group health insurance products in the State; (2) The plan provides minimum value, as defined under §156.145; (3) The benefits are not excepted benefits, as established under §146.145(b), and §148.220; and the benefits in the plan are from a plan year beginning after December 31, 2013.

3. In accordance with §156.111(b)(2)(i), does the State's proposed EHB-benchmark plan provide a scope of benefits that are equal to, or greater than, to the extent any supplementation is required to provide coverage within each EHB category at §156.110(a), the scope of benefits provided under a typical employer plan?

- ☒ Yes ☐ No

4. What plan was the basis for determining that the State's proposed EHB-benchmark plan's scope of benefits are equal to, or greater than, to the extent any supplementation is required to provide coverage within each EHB category at §156.110(a), the scope of benefits provided under a typical employer plan?

Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan - Simply Blue Plan

5. Briefly describe the methods, assumptions, and data used to determine that the State's proposed EHB-benchmark plan provides a scope of benefits that are equal to, or greater than, to the extent any supplementation is required to provide coverage within each EHB category at §156.110(a), the scope of benefits provided under a typical employer plan.¹

- Compare the benefits being offered, and
- Compare the costs of the level of those benefits.

NovaRest believes that the Michigan Simply Blue Plan represents a typical employer plan plan. Per a report provided by the Michigan Department of Information and Financial Services (DIFS), the Simply Blue plan has at least 10 percent of the total enrollment of the five largest group health insurance products by enrollment in Michigan. Additionally, after discussions with the Michigan DIFS and reviewing the benefit certificate, we confirm the Simply Blue plan provides minimum value and the benefits are no excepted benefits. Additionally, as the benefits were not approved until after 2015 as discussed in our accompanying report, we confirm they are from a plan year beginning after December 31, 2013.

We have confirmed with the carrier that these benefits are currently covered by the Simply Blue Plan and therefore the scope of benefits for the proposed EHB-Benchmark plan is equal to that of a typical employer plan.

SECTION 3: LIMITATION ON EXCEEDING GENEROSITY FOR §156.111(b)(2)(i)

6. In accordance with §156.111(b)(2)(ii), does the State's proposed EHB-benchmark plan definition exceed the generosity of the most generous among a set of comparison plans, including 1) the State's EHB-benchmark plan used for the 2017 plan year, and 2) any of the State's base-benchmark plan options for the 2017 plan year described in §156.100(a)(1), supplemented as necessary under §156.110?²



Yes



No

7. Which plan or plans were used as the basis to determine the most generous plan for this comparison?

Small Group Plan 1 - BCBSM Community Blue PPO Plan 4

8. Briefly describe the methods, assumptions and data used to determine whether the State's EHB-benchmark plan does not exceed the generosity of the most generous among a set of comparison plans:

- Compare the benefits being offered, and
- Compare the costs of the level of those benefits.

In 2012, Wakely Consulting Group provided Michigan with a report that provided an analysis of the premium impact of the benefit differences between the ten (10) category plan combinations considered for Michigan's Benchmark Plan. Wakely estimated that the richest small group plan that was included in the Michigan 10 comparison plan, the Small Group Plan 1 - BCBSM Community Blue PPO Plan 4, had a premium impact of \$2.00 to \$2.50 PMPM higher than the benchmark plan.

Michigan is proposing to add two (2) additional benefits to the current Benchmark Plan to combat the opioid epidemic: (1) Removal of barriers to prescribing Buprenorphine or generic equivalent products for medication-assisted treatment of opioid use disorder and (2) Coverage of at least one intranasal spray opioid reversal agent when prescriptions of opioids are dosages of 50MME or higher. NovaRest estimated the proposed benefits would result in an additional \$1.73 PMPM to the current Benchmark Plan and would result in a plan that does not exceed the generosity of the most generous among the original plans chosen, according to Wakely's previous analysis.

¹ A copy of the *Example of an Acceptable Methodology for Comparing Benefits of a State's EHB-benchmark Plan Selection in Accordance with 45 CFR 156.111(b)(2)(i) and (ii)* is available on CCIIO's Regulation and Guidance webpage at <https://www.cms.gov/ccio/resources/regulations-and-guidance/index.html>. The actuary's response to Questions 4 and 8 may be the same or different.

² The Essential Health Benefits: List of the Largest Three Small Group Products by State for 2017 is available at <https://www.cms.gov/CCIIO/Resources/Regulations-and-Guidance/Downloads/Top3ListFinal-5-19-2015.pdf>. States' EHB-benchmark plans used for the 2017 plan year are available at https://www.cms.gov/CCIIO/Resources/Data-Resources/Downloads/Final-List-of-BMPs_4816.pdf.

SECTION 4: CERTIFICATION LANGUAGE

45 CFR §156.111(e)(2) requires that a State selecting its EHB-benchmark plan must submit an actuarial certification and an associated actuarial report from an actuary, who is a member of the American Academy of Actuaries, in accordance with generally accepted actuarial principles and methodologies that affirms:

- (i) That the State's EHB-benchmark plan provides a scope of benefits equal to, or greater than, to the extent any supplementation is required to provide coverage within each EHB category at §156.110(a), the scope of benefits provided under a typical employer plan as defined at §156.111(b)(2)(i); and
- (ii) That the State's EHB-benchmark plan does not exceed the generosity of the most generous among the plans listed in §156.111(b)(2)(ii)(A) and (B).

The analysis described in this document and supported in the actuarial report attached to this document was:

- (i) conducted by a member of the American Academy of Actuaries, and
- (ii) performed in accordance with generally accepted actuarial principles and methods, including complying with all applicable Actuarial Standards of Practice (ASOP).

Name of Actuary Completing Form

Donna Novak, FCA, ASA, MAAA, MBA

Actuary Signature

Date

07/01/2020

PRA Disclosure Statement

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is **0938-1174 (Expires 06/01/2021)**. The time required to complete this information collection is estimated to average **47 hours or 2,820 minutes per response for States. For Form 1, the estimate is 4 hours. For Form 2, the estimate is 19 hours. For Form 3, the estimate is 12 hours. For Form 4, the estimate is 12 hours.** If you have comments concerning the accuracy of the time estimate(s) or suggestions for improving this form, please write to: CMS, 7500 Security Boulevard, Attn: PRA Reports Clearance Officer, Mail Stop C4-26-05, Baltimore, Maryland 21244-1850.

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