

(c) *Special enrollment periods.* For an enrollment or change of enrollment in Part D made during a special enrollment period specified in § 423.38(c), the effective date is determined by CMS, which, to the extent practicable, is determined in a manner consistent with protecting the continuity of health benefits coverage.

(d) *PDP enrollment period to coordinate with the MA annual disenrollment period.* Beginning in 2011, an enrollment made from January 1 through February 14 by an individual who has disenrolled from an MA plan as described in § 422.62(a)(7) will be effective the first day of the month following the month in which the enrollment in the PDP is made.

[70 FR 4525, Jan. 28, 2005, as amended at 76 FR 21570, Apr. 15, 2011]

**§ 423.44 Involuntary disenrollment from Part D coverage.**

(a) *General rule.* Except as provided in paragraphs (b) through (d) of this section, a PDP sponsor may not—

(1) Involuntarily disenroll an individual from any PDP it offers; or

(2) Orally or in writing, or by any action or inaction, request or encourage an individual to disenroll.

(b) *Basis for disenrollment—(1) Optional involuntary disenrollment.* A PDP sponsor may disenroll an individual from a PDP it offers in any of the following circumstances:

(i) Any monthly premium is not paid on a timely basis, as specified under paragraph (d)(1) of this section; or

(ii) The individual has engaged in disruptive behavior, as specified under paragraph (d)(2) of this section.

(2) *Required involuntary disenrollment.* A PDP sponsor must disenroll an individual from a PDP it offers in any of the following circumstances:

(i) The individual no longer resides in the PDP's service area.

(ii) The individual loses eligibility for Part D.

(iii) Death of the individual.

(iv) The PDP sponsor's contract is terminated by CMS

or by a PDP or through mutual consent. The PDP sponsor must disenroll affected enrollees in accordance with the procedures for disenrollment set forth at § 423.507 through § 423.510.

(v) The individual materially misrepresents

information, as determined by CMS, to the PDP sponsor that the individual has or expects to receive reimbursement for third-party coverage.

(c) *Notice requirement.* (1) If the disenrollment is for any of the reasons specified in paragraphs (b)(1), (b)(2)(i), or (b)(2)(iv) of this section (that is, other than death or loss of Part D eligibility, the PDP sponsor must give the individual timely notice of the disenrollment with an explanation of why the PDP is planning to disenroll the individual.

(2) Notices for reasons specified in paragraphs (b)(1) through (b)(2)(i) and (b)(2)(iii) of this section must—

(i) Be provided to the individual before submission of the disenrollment notice to CMS; and

(ii) Include an explanation of the individual's right to file a grievance under the PDP's grievance procedures.

(d) *Process for disenrollment—(1) Except as specified in paragraph (d)(1)(iv) of this section, a PDP sponsor may disenroll an individual from the PDP for failure to pay any monthly premium under the following circumstances:*

(i) The PDP sponsor can demonstrate to CMS that it made reasonable efforts to collect the unpaid premium amount.

(ii) The PDP sponsor gives the enrollee notice of disenrollment that meets the requirements set forth in paragraph (c) of this section.

(iii) The PDP sponsor provides the individual with a grace period, that is, an opportunity to pay past due premiums in full. The grace period must—

(A) Be at least 2 months; and

(B) Begin on the first day of the month for which the premium is unpaid or the first day of the month following the date on which premium payment is requested, whichever is later.

(iv) *Reenrollment in the PDP.* If an individual is disenrolled from the PDP for failure to pay monthly PDP premiums, the PDP sponsor has the option to decline future enrollment by the individual in any of its PDPs until the individual has paid any past premiums due to the PDP sponsor.

(v) A PDP sponsor may not disenroll an individual who had monthly premiums withheld per § 423.293(a) and (e) of this part or who is in premium withhold status, as defined by CMS.

(vi) *Extension of grace period for good cause and reinstatement.* When an individual is disenrolled for failure to pay the plan premium, CMS may reinstate enrollment in the PDP, without interruption of coverage, if the individual shows good cause for failure to pay within the initial grace period, and pays all overdue premiums within 3 calendar months after the disenrollment date. The individual must establish by a credible statement that failure to pay premiums within the initial grace period was due to circumstances for which the individual had no control, or which the individual could not reasonably have been expected to foresee.

(vii) *No extension of grace period.* A beneficiary's enrollment in the PDP may not be reinstated if the only basis for such reinstatement is a change in the individual's circumstances subsequent to the involuntary disenrollment for non-payment of premiums.

(2) *Disruptive behavior—(i) Definition.* A PDP enrollee is disruptive if his or her behavior substantially impairs the plans ability to arrange or provide for services to the individual or other plan members. An individual cannot be considered disruptive if the behavior is related to the use of medical services or compliance (or noncompliance) with medical advice or treatment.

(ii) *Basis of disenrollment for disruptive behavior.* A PDP may disenroll an individual whose behavior is disruptive as defined in § 423.44(d)(2)(i) only after the PDP sponsor meets the requirements described in this section and after CMS has reviewed and approved the request.

(iii) *Effort to resolve the problem.* The PDP sponsor must make a serious effort to resolve the problems presented by the individual, including providing reasonable accommodations, as determined by CMS, for individuals with mental or cognitive conditions, including mental illness, Alzheimers disease, and developmental disabilities. In addition, the PDP sponsor must inform the individual of the right to use the PDP's grievance procedures. The individual

has a right to submit any information or explanation that he or she may wish to the PDP.

(iv) *Documentation.* The PDP sponsor must document the enrollee's behavior, its own efforts to resolve any problems, as described in paragraph (d)(2)(iii) of this section, and any extenuating circumstances. The PDP sponsor may request from CMS the ability to decline future enrollment by the individual. The PDP sponsor must submit this information and any documentation received by the individual to CMS.

(v) *CMS review of the proposed disenrollment.* CMS reviews the information submitted by the PDP sponsor and any information submitted by the individual (which the PDP sponsor has submitted to CMS) to determine if the PDP sponsor has fulfilled the requirements to request disenrollment for disruptive behavior. If the PDP sponsor has fulfilled the necessary requirements, CMS reviews the information and make a decision to approve or deny the request for disenrollment, including conditions on future enrollment, within 20 working days. During the review, CMS ensures that staff with appropriate clinical or medical expertise reviews the case before making a final decision. The PDP sponsor is required to provide a reasonable accommodation, as determined by CMS, for the individual in exceptional circumstances that CMS deems necessary. CMS notifies the PDP sponsor within 5 working days after making its decision.

(vi) *Exception for fallback prescription drug plans.* CMS reserves the right to deny a request from a fallback prescription drug plan as defined in § 423.855 to disenroll an individual for disruptive behavior.

(vii) *Effective date of disenrollment.* If CMS permits a PDP to disenroll an individual for disruptive behavior, the termination is effective the first day of the calendar month after the month in which the PDP gives the individual written notice of the disenrollment that meets the requirements set forth in paragraph (c) of this section.

(3) *Loss of Part D eligibility.* If an individual is no longer eligible for Part D, CMS notifies the PDP that the disenrollment is effective the first day

of the calendar month following the last month of Part D eligibility.

(4) *Death of the individual.* If the individual dies,

disenrollment is effective the first day of the calendar month following the month of death.

(5) *Individual no longer resides in the PDP service area—Basis for disenrollment.* (i) The PDP must disenroll an individual if the individual notifies the PDP that he or she has permanently moved out of the PDP service area.

(ii) *Special rule.* If the individual has not moved from the PDP service area, but has been absent from the service area for more than 12 consecutive months, the PDP sponsor must disenroll the individual from the plan effective on the first day of the 13th month after the individual left the service area.

(6) *Plan termination.* (i) When a PDP contract terminates as provided in § 423.507 through § 423.510, the PDP sponsor must give each affected PDP enrollee notice of the effective date of the plan termination and a description of alternatives for obtaining prescription drug coverage under Part D, as specified by CMS.

(ii) The notice must be sent before the effective date of the plan termination or area reduction, and in the timeframes specified by CMS.

(7) *Misrepresentation of third-party reimbursement.* (i) If CMS determines an individual has materially misrepresented information to the PDP sponsor as described under § 423.44(b)(2)(v), the termination is effective the first day of the calendar month after the month in which the PDP sponsor gives the individual written notice of the disenrollment that meets the requirements set forth in paragraph (c) of this section.

(ii) *Reenrollment in the PDP.* Once an individual is disenrolled from the PDP for misrepresentation of third party reimbursement, the PDP sponsor has the option to decline future enrollment by the individual in any of its PDPs for a period of time CMS specifies.

(e) *Involuntary disenrollment by CMS—*(1) *General rule.* CMS will disenroll individuals who fail to pay the Part D income related monthly adjustment

amount (Part D—IRMAA) specified in § 423.286(d)(4) and § 423.293(d) of this part.

(2) *Initial grace period.* For all Part D—IRMAA amounts directly billed to an enrollee in accordance with § 423.293(d)(2), the grace period ends with the last day of the third month after the billing month.

(3) *Extension of grace period for good cause and reinstatement.* When an individual is disenrolled for failing to pay the Part D—IRMAA within the initial grace period specified in paragraph (e)(2) of this section, CMS (or an entity acting on behalf of CMS) may reinstate enrollment, without interruption of coverage, if the individual shows good cause as specified in § 423.44(d)(1)(vi), pays all Part D—IRMAA arrearages, and any overdue premiums due the Part D plan sponsor within 3 calendar months after the disenrollment date.

(4) *Notice of termination.* Where CMS has disenrolled an individual in accordance with paragraph (e)(1) of this section, the Part D plan sponsor must provide notice of termination in a form and manner determined by CMS.

(5) *Effective date of disenrollment.* After a grace period and notice of termination has been provided in accordance with paragraphs (e)(2) and (4) of this section, the effective date of disenrollment is the first day following the last day of the initial grace period.

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#### § 423.46 Late enrollment penalty.

(a) *General.* A Part D eligible individual must pay the late penalty described under § 423.286(d)(3), except as described at § 423.780(e), if there is a continuous period of 63 days or longer at any time after the end of the individual's initial enrollment period during which the individual meets all of the following conditions:

(1) The individual was eligible to enroll in a Part D plan;

(2) The individual was not covered under any creditable prescription drug coverage; and

(3) The individual was not enrolled in a Part D plan.