

# **EXPERT UPDATE**



## Verification Process for Exchange Premium Assistance



### Verification Process for Exchange Premium Assistance

Starting in 2014, an applicable large employer that does not offer minimum essential benefits, or the benefits offered are not of minimum value and affordable, could receive a certification that one of its employees has been determined to be eligible for premium assistance or a cost sharing reduction in the Exchange. HHS regulations require Exchanges to establish a procedure that coordinates eligibility and enrollment so that an individual applying for health coverage in the Exchange will be notified of premium assistance eligibility at the point of application. This is possible because proposed regulations permit the disclosure of income and other personal information to HHS so that premium and cost-sharing assistance can be approved when the application for coverage has been made.

When the Exchange makes the determination that an applicant is likely eligible for premium subsidies and cost-sharing reductions, the employer will be notified. Information disclosed to the employer when subsidized coverage has been approved will include the employee's identity, a statement that indicates the employer may be liable for a shared responsibility payment (penalty) and information indicating that the employer has an opportunity to appeal the determination.

#### The Expected Process:

- Employer provides
   Exchange Notice to
   employees
- 2. Employee decides to go to the Exchange to purchase coverage
- 3. Exchange verifies information provided by employee

- 4. Exchange then makes a PRELIMINARY determination as to whether premium assistance will be granted
- 5. Employer is notified that employee has applied for coverage and premium assistance may be provided

- 6. Employer
  determines whether it
  wants to appeal the
  Exchange's
  determination
- 7. Employer files information to IRS and employee & employee files tax return
- 8. Employer penalties are assessed and employer may appeal

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