



Date: May 10, 2013

Subject: Small Business Health Options Program (SHOP)-Only Marketplace FAQs

SHOP-only Marketplace

Q1: May a State operate only a Small Business Health Options Program (SHOP) while the individual market Marketplace is operated as a Federally-facilitated Marketplace (FFM)?

A1: We will propose through rulemaking that, for 2014, a State that submitted a Blueprint pursuant to § 155.105(e) to operate a State-based Marketplace and received conditional approval may request to operate a State-based SHOP while the individual market Marketplace is operated as an FFM. All states would have the same option starting in 2015.

Q2: Can any State elect to operate a State-based SHOP in 2014?

A2: We intend to propose through rulemaking that only States that have submitted blueprints and received conditional approval to operate as a State-based Marketplace in 2014 are eligible to submit a request to HHS to operate only a State-based SHOP in 2014.

Q3: Will the requirements for a State to operate a State-based SHOP while the individual market Marketplace is operated as a FFM be different for 2015?

A3: We intend to propose through rulemaking that States wishing to operate only a State-based SHOP in 2015 or beyond be required to submit a Blueprint that is being specifically developed for the State-based SHOP/individual market FFM arrangement.

Q5: If a State elects to operate a State-based SHOP only, will the State be required to operate a Navigator program for the SHOP? If so, are the requirements for the State-based SHOP-only Navigator programs the same?

A5: We intend to propose through rulemaking that, if a State operates only a State-based SHOP, the SHOP must have a Navigator program, consistent with the statute. We also intend to propose that the State may choose to limit Navigators in a SHOP-only Navigator program to consumer outreach and education activities. The proposed rulemaking would also provide that the FFM would operate a Navigator program in the individual market FFM in states that operate only a State-based SHOP.