

## § 406.21

## 42 CFR Ch. IV (10-1-07 Edition)

(4) Is not otherwise entitled to Medicare Part A.

[56 FR 38078, Aug. 12, 1991; 56 FR 50058, Oct. 3, 1991]

### § 406.21 Individual enrollment.

(a) *Basic provision.* An individual who meets the requirements of § 406.20 (b) or (c) may enroll for premium hospital insurance only during his or her "initial enrollment period", a "general enrollment period", a "special enrollment period", or, for HMO/CMP enrollees, a "transfer enrollment period", as set forth in paragraphs (b) through (f) of this section.

(b) *Initial enrollment periods—(1) Initial enrollment period for individual age 65 or over.* The initial enrollment period extends for 7 months, from the third month before the month the individual first meets the requirements of § 406.20 (b)(1) through (b)(3) through the third month after that first month of eligibility.

(2) *Initial enrollment period of individual under age 65.* The initial enrollment period begins with the month in which the individual receives notice that entitlement to Medicare Part A will end because he or she has lost entitlement to disability benefits solely because of earnings in excess of the amounts allowed under the social security regulations on substantial gainful activity (20 CFR 404.1571-404.1574). It continues for 7 full months after that month.

(c) *General enrollment period.* (1) Except as specified in paragraph (c)(4) of this section, the general enrollment period extends from January 1 to March 31 of each calendar year.

(2) General enrollment periods are for individuals who do not enroll during the special enrollment period, who failed to enroll during the initial enrollment period, or whose previous period of entitlement had terminated.

(3) If the individual enrolls or re-enrolls during a general enrollment period, his or her entitlement begins on July 1 of the calendar year.

(4) During the period April 1 through September 30, 1981, the general enrollment period was any time after the end of the individual's initial enrollment period. Any eligible individual whose initial enrollment period has ended, or

whose previous period of entitlement had terminated, could enroll or re-enroll during that 6-month period.

(d) *"Deemed" initial enrollment period for individual age 65 or over.* (1) If an individual who has attained age 65 fails to enroll during the initial enrollment period because of reliance on incorrect documentary information which led him or her to believe that he or she was not yet age 65, an initial enrollment period may be established for him or her as though he or she had attained age 65 on the date indicated by the incorrect documentary information.

(2) The deemed initial enrollment period will be used to determine the individual's premium and right to enroll in a general enrollment period if such use is advantageous to the individual.

(e) [Reserved]

(f) *Transfer enrollment period for HMO/CMP enrollees—(1) Terminology.* HMO or CMP means an eligible organization as defined in § 417.401 which has a contract with CMS under part 417, subpart L of this chapter.

(2) *Basic rule.* Effective February 1, 1991, individuals enrolled in an HMO or CMP under part 417, subpart K of this chapter who meet the requirements of § 406.20(b) may enroll in premium hospital insurance during a transfer enrollment period. This transfer enrollment period begins with any month or any part of a month in which the individual is enrolled in an HMO or CMP and ends with the last day of the 8th consecutive month in which the individual is no longer enrolled in the HMO or CMP.

(3) *Effective date of coverage.* (i) If the individual enrolls in premium hospital insurance while still enrolled in an HMO or CMP, or during the first month that he or she is no longer enrolled in the HMO or CMP, part A coverage will begin on the first day of the month of part A enrollment, or, at the option of the individual, on the first day of any of the following 3 months.

(ii) If the individual enrolls in premium hospital insurance during any of the last 7 months of the transfer enrollment period, coverage will begin on

the first day of the month after the month of enrollment.

[48 FR 12536, Mar. 25, 1983. Redesignated at 51 FR 41338, Nov. 14, 1986, as amended at 53 FR 47203, Nov. 22, 1988; 56 FR 38079, Aug. 12, 1991; 57 FR 36014, Aug. 12, 1992; 61 FR 40345, Aug. 2, 1996]

**§ 406.22 Effect of month of enrollment on entitlement.**

(a) *Individual age 65 or over.* For an individual who has attained age 65, the following rules apply:

(1) If the individual enrolls during the 3 months before the first month of eligibility, entitlement begins with the first month of eligibility.

(2) If the individual enrolls in the first month of eligibility, entitlement begins with the following month.

(3) If the individual enrolls during the month after the first month of eligibility, entitlement begins with the second month after the month of enrollment.

(4) If the individual enrolls in either of the last 2 months of the enrollment period, entitlement begins with the third month after the month of enrollment.

(b) *Individual under age 65.* For an individual who has not attained age 65, the following rules apply:

(1) If the individual enrolls before the month in which he or she meets the requirements of § 406.20(c), entitlement begins with the month in which the individual meets those requirements.

(2) If the individual enrolls in the month in which he or she first meets the requirements of § 406.20(c), entitlement begins with the following month.

(3) If the individual enrolls in the month following the month in which he or she meets the requirements of § 406.20(c), entitlement begins with the second month after the month of enrollment.

(4) If the individual enrolls more than one month after the month in which he or she first meets the requirements of § 406.20(c), entitlement begins with the third month after the month of enrollment.

[56 FR 38079, Aug. 12, 1991]

**§ 406.24 Special enrollment period.<sup>1</sup>**

(a) *Terminology.* As used in this subpart, the following terms have the indicated meanings.

(1) *Current employment status* has the meaning given this term in § 411.104 of this chapter.

(2) *Family member* has the meaning given this term in § 411.201 of this chapter.

(3) *Group health plan (GHP)* and *large group health plan (LGHP)* have the meanings given those terms in § 411.101 of this chapter, except that the “former employee” language of those definitions does not apply with respect to SEPs because—

(i) Section 1837(i)(1)(A) of the Act explicitly requires that GHP coverage of an individual age 65 or older, be by reason of the individual’s (or the individual’s spouse’s) current employment status; and

(ii) The sentence following section 1837(i)(1)(B), of the Act refers to “large group health plan”. Under section 1862(b)(1)(B)(i), as amended by OBRA ’93, LGHP coverage of a disabled individual must be “by virtue of the individual’s or a family member’s current employment status with an employer”.

(4) *Special enrollment period (SEP)* is a period provided by statute to enable certain individuals to enroll in Medicare without having to wait for the general enrollment period.

(b) *Duration of SEP.*<sup>2</sup> (1) The SEP includes any month during any part of which—

(i) An individual over age 65 is enrolled in a GHP by reason of the current employment status of the individual or the individual’s spouse; or

(ii) An individual under age 65 and disabled—

(A) Is enrolled in a GHP by reason of the current employment status of the individual or the individual’s spouse; or

(B) Is enrolled in an LGHP by reason of the current employment status of

<sup>1</sup>Before August 1986, SEPs were available only for enrollment in supplementary medical insurance, not for enrollment in premium hospital insurance.

<sup>2</sup>Before March 1995, SEPs began on the first day of the first month the individual was no longer covered under a GHP or LGHP by reason of current employment status.