

(i) the sum of the employer contribution and any contribution that the insured would have been required to pay if there had not been a change in status; and

(ii) a reasonable administrative fee that is subject to review and approval by the Commissioner;

(3) allow the payment of the amount specified in paragraph (2) of this subsection in monthly installments if the insured elects to do so;

(4) be identical to the coverage offered under the group contract to similarly situated individuals for whom there has not been a change in status; and

(5) be available to the spouse and dependent children of the insured if:

(i) the group contract provides benefits for spouses and dependent children; and

(ii) the insured's spouse and dependent children were covered under the group contract before the change in status.

(e) (1) To elect continuation coverage provided under this section, an insured or authorized representative shall submit a signed election notification form to the insured's employer during the election period.

(2) The election period for continuation coverage under this section begins on the date of the change in status and ends at least 45 days after that date.

(3) Within 14 days after receipt of a request for an election notification form, the employer shall deliver or send by first class mail the election notification form to the insured or authorized representative.

(f) Each certificate issued to an insured under a group contract shall include a statement, in a manner and form approved by the Commissioner, that advises the insured of the following:

(1) the availability of continuation coverage under this section;

(2) a summary of the eligibility for and duration of the continuation coverage; and

(3) the procedure for making an election to receive continuation coverage if a change in status occurs.

(g) The Commissioner shall:

(1) publish at least annually in the Maryland Register and in a newspaper of general circulation in each county notice that describes the continuation coverage required under this section;

(2) prescribe by regulation the form and content of the election notification form; and