

CHAPTER 284

AN ACT concerning the State Health Benefits Program and supplementing P.L.1961, c.49 (C.52:14-17.25 et seq.).

BE IT ENACTED *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey:*

C.52:14-17.29g Notice to enrollees in State Health Benefits managed care programs if primary care physician is terminated from plan.

1. a. The State Health Benefits Commission shall ensure that every contract purchased by the commission on or after the effective date of this act provides that if an enrollee's or member's primary care physician's contract as a participating physician in a health maintenance organization or NJ PLUS will be terminated, the health maintenance organization or NJ PLUS, as appropriate, shall provide the enrollee or member with 90-days notice of the termination. If 90-days notice cannot be provided because the termination will occur prior to the end of the 90-day period, the health maintenance organization or NJ PLUS shall notify the enrollee or member as soon as the health maintenance organization or NJ PLUS has knowledge of the termination.

b. Notwithstanding the provisions of any policy governing open enrollment to the contrary, an enrollee or member who has been notified by a health maintenance organization or NJ PLUS pursuant to this section may change his coverage to another health benefits plan under the State Health Benefits Program upon receiving notice that his primary care physician will no longer be a participating physician with the health maintenance organization or NJ PLUS, in which the person is currently enrolled.

2. This act shall take effect immediately.

Approved December 27, 2001.