

RCW 48.155.010 Definitions. The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

(1) "Affiliate" means a person that directly, or indirectly through one or more intermediaries, controls, or is controlled by, or is under common control with, the person specified.

(2) "Commissioner" means the Washington state insurance commissioner.

(3) (a) "Control" or "controlled by" or "under common control with" means the possession, direct or indirect, of the power to direct or cause the direction of the management and policies of a person, whether through the ownership of voting securities, by contract other than a commercial contract for goods or nonmanagement services, or otherwise, unless the power is the result of an official position with or corporate office held by the person.

(b) Control exists when any person, directly or indirectly, owns, controls, holds with the power to vote, or holds proxies representing ten percent or more of the voting securities of any other person. A presumption of control may be rebutted by a showing made in the manner provided by RCW 48.31B.005(3) and 48.31B.025(11) that control does not exist in fact. The commissioner may determine, after furnishing all persons in interest notice and opportunity to be heard and making specific findings of fact to support the determination, that control exists in fact, notwithstanding the absence of a presumption to that effect.

(4) (a) "Discount plan" means a business arrangement or contract in which a person or organization, in exchange for fees, dues, charges, or other consideration, provides or purports to provide discounts to its members on charges by providers for health care services.

(b) "Discount plan" does not include:

(i) A plan that does not charge a membership or other fee to use the plan's discount card;

(ii) A patient access program as defined in this chapter;

(iii) A medicare prescription drug plan as defined in this chapter; or

(iv) A discount plan offered by a health carrier authorized under chapter 48.20, 48.21, 48.44, or 48.46 RCW.

(5) (a) "Discount plan organization" means a person that, in exchange for fees, dues, charges, or other consideration, provides or purports to provide access to discounts to its members on charges by providers for health care services. "Discount plan organization" also means a person or organization that contracts with providers, provider networks, or other discount plan organizations to offer discounts on health care services to its members. This term also includes all persons that determine the charge to or other consideration paid by members.

(b) "Discount plan organization" does not mean:

(i) Pharmacy benefit managers;

(ii) Health care provider networks, when the network's only involvement in discount plans is contracting with the plan to provide discounts to the plan's members;

(iii) Marketers who market the discount plans of discount plan organizations which are licensed under this chapter as long as all written communications of the marketer in connection with a discount plan clearly identify the licensed discount plan organization as the responsible entity; or

(iv) Health carriers, if the discount on health care services is offered by a health carrier authorized under chapter 48.20, 48.21, 48.44, or 48.46 RCW.

(6) "Health care facility" or "facility" has the same meaning as in *RCW 48.43.005(22).

(7) "Health care provider" or "provider" has the same meaning as in *RCW 48.43.005(23).

(8) "Health care provider network," "provider network," or "network" means any network of health care providers, including any person or entity that negotiates directly or indirectly with a discount plan organization on behalf of more than one provider to provide health care services to members.

(9) "Health care services" has the same meaning as in *RCW 48.43.005(24).

(10) "Health carrier" or "carrier" has the same meaning as in *RCW 48.43.005(25).

(11) "Marketer" means a person or entity that markets, promotes, sells, or distributes a discount plan, including a contracted marketing organization and a private label entity that places its name on and markets or distributes a discount plan pursuant to a marketing agreement with a discount plan organization.

(12) "Medicare prescription drug plan" means a plan that provides a medicare part D prescription drug benefit in accordance with the requirements of the federal medicare prescription drug improvement and modernization act of 2003.

(13) "Member" means any individual who pays fees, dues, charges, or other consideration for the right to receive the benefits of a discount plan, but does not include any individual who enrolls in a patient access program.

(14) "Patient access program" means a voluntary program sponsored by a pharmaceutical manufacturer, or a consortium of pharmaceutical manufacturers, that provides free or discounted health care products for no additional consideration directly to low-income or uninsured individuals either through a discount card or direct shipment.

(15) "Person" means an individual, a corporation, a governmental entity, a partnership, an association, a joint venture, a joint stock company, a trust, an unincorporated organization, any similar entity, or any combination of the persons listed in this subsection.

(16)(a) "Pharmacy benefit manager" means a person that performs pharmacy benefit management for a covered entity.

(b) For purposes of this subsection, a "covered entity" means an insurer, a health care service contractor, a health maintenance organization, or a multiple employer welfare arrangement licensed, certified, or registered under the provisions of this title. "Covered entity" also means a health program administered by the state as a provider of health coverage, a single employer that provides health coverage to its employees, or a labor union that provides health coverage to its members as part of a collective bargaining agreement. [2015 c 122 s 19; 2010 c 27 s 4; 2009 c 175 s 3.]

***Reviser's note:** RCW 48.43.005 was alphabetized pursuant to RCW 1.08.015(2)(k), changing subsections (22), (23), (24), and (25) to subsections (23), (24), (25), and (26), and effective January 1, 2020, changing subsections (22), (23), (24), and (25) to subsections (25), (26), (27), and (28). RCW 48.43.005 was alphabetized pursuant to RCW 1.08.015(2)(k), changing subsections (25), (26), (27), and (28) to subsections (27), (28), (29), and (30). Subsequently, RCW 48.43.005

was amended by 2024 c 218 s 1, changing subsections (27), (28), (29), and (30) to subsections (29), (30), (31), and (32).

Effective dates—2015 c 122: See note following RCW 48.31B.005.