Health Care Reform & Same-Sex Spouse Benefits

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P. Brian Bartels, Esq. Associate

Associate Kutak Rock LLP

P. Brian.Bartels@KutakRock.com

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Overview

- ➤ Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act ("ACA") Updates
 - Reporting for 2015 Tax Year
 - King v. Burwell
- ➤ Wellness Program Update
- ➤ Same-Sex Spousal Benefits
 - Obergefell v. Hodges
 - Issues to Consider post-Windsor

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Code §§ 6055 and 6056 Reporting

- ► Mandatory reporting for 2015 tax year (due 2016)
- ► Two different reporting requirements
- ► Code § 6055: Minimum essential coverage reporting
- ► Code § 6056: Applicable large employer reporting
- ► Forms for reporting
 - 1094-B
 - 1095-B
 - 1094-C
 - 1095-C

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Information Reported

- ► Information reported for <u>each calendar month</u>
- **Examples**:
 - Type of coverage offered
 - To whom coverage offered (employee, spouse, dependents)
 - Enrollment in coverage
 - Cost of coverage
 - Covered individuals' Social Security numbers
 - Enrollment information

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Reporting for Fully Insured Plans

- ► Insurer reports minimum essential coverage
 - Form 1095-B to employees
 - Forms 1095-B and 1094-B to IRS
- ► Employer reports offers of coverage
 - Form 1095-C to employees
 - Forms 1095-C and 1094-C to IRS
- ► Deadline for reporting

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Reporting for Self-Insured Plans

- ► Minimum essential coverage and "employer mandate" reported on one form (Form 1095-C)
- ► Employer responsible for reporting on Form 1095-C
 - Due to employee January 31 (for 2015)
 - Due to IRS February 28 if filing on paper (March 31 if filing electronically) (for 2015)
- ► Employer transmits Forms 1095-C to IRS using Form 1094-C

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Preparing To Report

- ► Start preparing now!
- ► Forms look simple ... but ...
- ▶ Questions to consider:
 - Where is the data?
 - How will the data be aggregated/analyzed?
 - Who is responsible for preparing, filing, and mailing?
 - Role of current vendors?
 - Implementation timeline?

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King v. Burwell

- **▶** Background
 - Subsidized coverage through Exchanges (Marketplaces)
- ► Issue before the Court
- ► Potential implications

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Wellness Program Background

- ► Generally considered a "group health plan"
- ► Primarily governed by HIPAA
 - Exception to general rule prohibiting discrimination based on a health factor
 - If it complies with the regulations, a group health plan may provide rewards (penalties) based on health factors
 - Examples:
 - Surcharge for tobacco use
 - Biometric screenings
 - Health risk assessments

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Two Types of Wellness Programs

Participatory

- ➤ Does not provide a reward, or
- ➤ Does not include any conditions for obtaining a reward that is based on satisfying a standard related to a health factor
- **►** Examples

Health-contingent

- ► Two sub-types
- ► Activity-only
 - Perform/complete activity relating to a health factor to obtain reward
 - Not required to attain specific health outcome
- ▶ Outcome-based
 - Must attain or maintain specific health outcome to obtain reward

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New EEOC Proposed Regulations

- ► Federal Equal Employment Opportunity Commission ("EEOC") concern: wellness programs violate Title I of the Americans with Disabilities Act ("ADA")
- ► New proposed regulations:
 - Voluntary
 - Notice
 - Limitations on Incentives
 - Confidentiality
- ► Compliance steps





Same-Sex Spouse Benefits

- ► Obergefell v. Hodges
 - Issues
 - Is there a constitutional right for individuals of the same-sex to marry?
 - Does the Constitution require one state to recognize same-sex marriages legally performed in another state?
 - To be decided in June 2015 by United States Supreme Court

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Post-Windsor Issues

- ▶ Definition of "spouse" in plan documents
- ➤ Selected health plan issues
 - HIPAA special enrollment
 - COBRA
 - Dependent care assistance plan limits
 - Controlled groups
- ► Tax issues
 - State versus federal tax treatment
 - Imputed income

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Contact

P. Brian Bartels, Esq. Associate Kutak Rock LLP P.Brian.Bartels@KutakRock.com

▶ Omaha Office

The Omaha Building 1650 Farnam St. Omaha, NE 68102

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402-231-8897

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