

§ 58-53-95. Major medical plans.

Subject to the provisions of this Article, if the group policy from which conversion is made insures the employee or member for major medical expense insurance, the employee or member shall be entitled to obtain a converted policy providing catastrophic or major medical coverage under a plan meeting the following requirements:

- (1) A maximum benefit at least equal to either, at the option of the insurer,
 - a. A maximum payment per covered person for all covered medical expenses incurred during that person's lifetime, equal to the lesser of the maximum benefit provided under the group policy or one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000); or
 - b. A maximum payment for each unrelated injury or sickness, equal to the lesser of the maximum benefit provided under the group policy or one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000).
- (2) Payment of benefits at the rate of eighty percent (80%) of covered medical expenses that are in excess of the deductible, until twenty percent (20%) of such expenses in a benefit period reaches one thousand dollars (\$1,000), after which benefits will be paid at the rate of one hundred percent (100%) during the remainder of such benefit period. Payment of benefits for outpatient treatment of mental illness, if provided in the converted policy, may be at a lesser rate but not less than fifty percent (50%).
- (3) A deductible for each benefit period which, at the option of the insurer, shall be (i) the sum of the benefits deductible and one hundred dollars (\$100.00), or (ii) the corresponding deductible in the group policy. The term "benefits deductible," as used in this Part, means the value of any benefits provided on an expense incurred basis that are provided with respect to covered medical expenses by any other group or individual hospital, surgical, or medical insurance policy or medical practice or other prepayment plan, or any other plan, or program whether insured or uninsured, or by reason of any State or federal law and if, pursuant to G.S. 58-53-100, the converted policy provides both basic hospital or surgical coverage and major medical coverage, the value of such basic benefits.

If the maximum benefit is determined by subdivision (1)a of this section, the insurer may require that the deductible be satisfied during a period of not less than three months if the deductible is one hundred dollars (\$100.00) or less, and not less than six months if the deductible exceeds one hundred dollars (\$100.00).

- (4) The benefit period shall be each calendar year when the maximum benefit is determined by subdivision (1)a of this section or 24 months when the maximum benefit is determined by subdivision (1)b of this section.
- (5) The term "covered medical expenses," as used in this Part, shall include, in the case of hospital room and board charges, at a minimum the lesser of the dollar amount in G.S. 58-53-90(a)(1) and the average semiprivate room and board rate for the hospital in which the individual is confined, and at a minimum twice such amount for charges in an intensive care unit. Any surgical procedures schedule shall be consistent with those customarily offered by the insurer under group or individual health insurance policies and must provide at least a one thousand two hundred dollar (\$1,200) maximum. (1981, c. 706, s. 1.)