

MARYLAND HEALTH INSURANCE PLAN



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201 E. Baltimore Street
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Baltimore, Maryland 21202
410-576-2055

July 27, 2010

Mary Ellen Russell
Executive Director
Maryland Catholic Conference
10 Francis Street
Annapolis, MD 21401-1714

Dear Ms. Russell:

This is in response to your letter of July 22, 2010 to Tate Showers, Interim Executive Director of the Maryland Health Insurance Plan (MHIP). In your letter, you are asking for clarification of how abortions will be treated under the federal high risk pool administered for Maryland by MHIP, known as MHIP Federal.

MHIP will of course administer MHIP Federal in accordance with the provisions of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and with the regulations and guidance of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. This means that MHIP Federal will not cover abortions except in the case of rape or incest or where the life of the woman would be endangered.

While MHIP Federal will offer a comprehensive benefit package similar to the benefit package offered by other MHIP plan options, there will be some differences between the benefit packages offered by MHIP Federal and other MHIP plan options. MHIP staff members are currently drafting an endorsement to the MHIP Certificate of Coverage that will delineate those differences and contain those provisions that apply only to members of MHIP Federal. Among other things, the endorsement will clarify that MHIP Federal will not cover abortions except in the case of rape or incest or where the life of the woman would be endangered. The Board of Directors for MHIP will meet in August to adopt the endorsement to the MHIP Certificate of Coverage.

I trust that this responds fully to your inquiry. If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Geoffrey N. Cabin".

Geoffrey N. Cabin
Compliance Officer
Maryland Health Insurance Plan
410-576-5681

cc: Tate Showers
Interim Executive Director