

Legal Update



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IRS Proposes Change to Family Coverage Affordability Rules

On April 5, 2022, the IRS released a [proposed rule](#) that would change the existing rules for eligibility for the premium tax credit (PTC). The PTC is available to eligible individuals who purchase health insurance coverage through the Exchange. Individuals who have access to affordable, minimum value employer-sponsored coverage are not eligible for the PTC.

Overview of the Proposed Change

Currently, whether employer-sponsored coverage is considered affordable for family members is determined based on the lowest-cost **self-only coverage** available to the employee. **The cost of family coverage is not currently taken into account.** These rules apply for determining an individual's eligibility for the PTC, and have also been specifically incorporated for use in determining affordability for purposes of the employer shared responsibility rules.

The proposed rule would provide that an employer-sponsored plan is affordable for family members if the **portion of the annual premium the employee must pay for family coverage** (the employee's required contribution) does not exceed 9.5% (as adjusted annually) of household income. For this purpose, family coverage means all employer plans that cover any related individual other than the employee. The proposed rule would also add a minimum value rule for family members based on the benefits provided to the family members.

Impact of the Proposed Rule

If this rule is finalized, the change would likely mean that more individuals will be newly eligible for a premium tax credit for coverage purchased through the Exchange. The proposed rule does not address how or whether this change will impact the affordability calculation for the employer shared responsibility rules.