Interaction Between Individual and SHOP Exchange

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SHOP Exchange: Policy and Operations

December 15-16, 2011

Denver, CO

State Health Reform Assistance Network Charting the Road to Coverage



Interaction between Individual and SHOP Roles

Plan and benefit selection strategy

Plan management functions

Decision support for plan selection

Screening employees for affordability of ESI



Interaction Between Plan Certification & De-Certification, SHOP vs. Ind'l

- Employee choice is complicated, for everyone:
 - Underwriters
 - Employers
 - Employees
- Likelihood of resistance, esp. from largest carriers
 - Actuarial likes groups, bigger the better
 - Sales likes groups
 - Marketing likes groups
 - Brokers like groups



Interaction Between Plan Certification & De-Certification, SHOP vs. Ind'l

 SHOP likely to be much smaller than Individual, tax-credit-subsidized market

Leverage QHP certification for both exchanges

 However, anticipating the employer demand for plan designs is far more complex



SHOP Benefit Selection Distinct from Ind'l Market

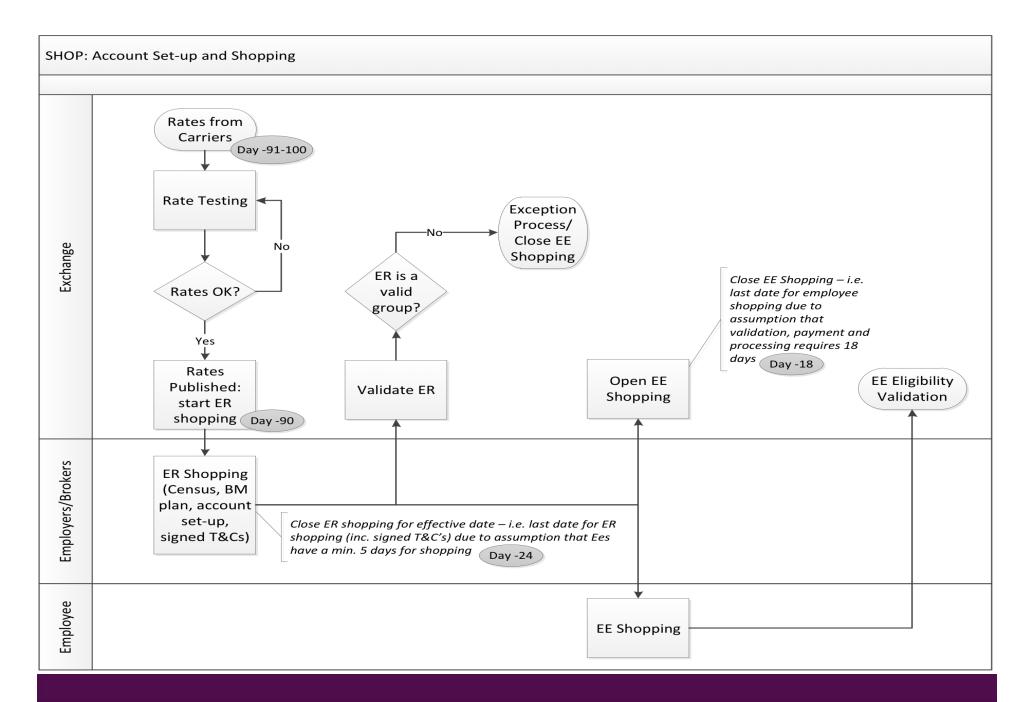
- Many S-G markets offer very broad choice of benefit/cost-sharing/plan designs
 - HMO/EPO + PPO + POS + HDHPs
 - 50 AVs, from 45% 95%
- Offerings evolve, sometimes quarterly (e.g. NYC)
- Precious metals prescribed by ACA
 - If not applied to outside market, significant constraint
- Carrier/broker perspectives essential
 - Benefits survey
 - Broker advisory council
 - Strategy and operational supports in anticipation of an evolving portfolio of SHOP plan designs



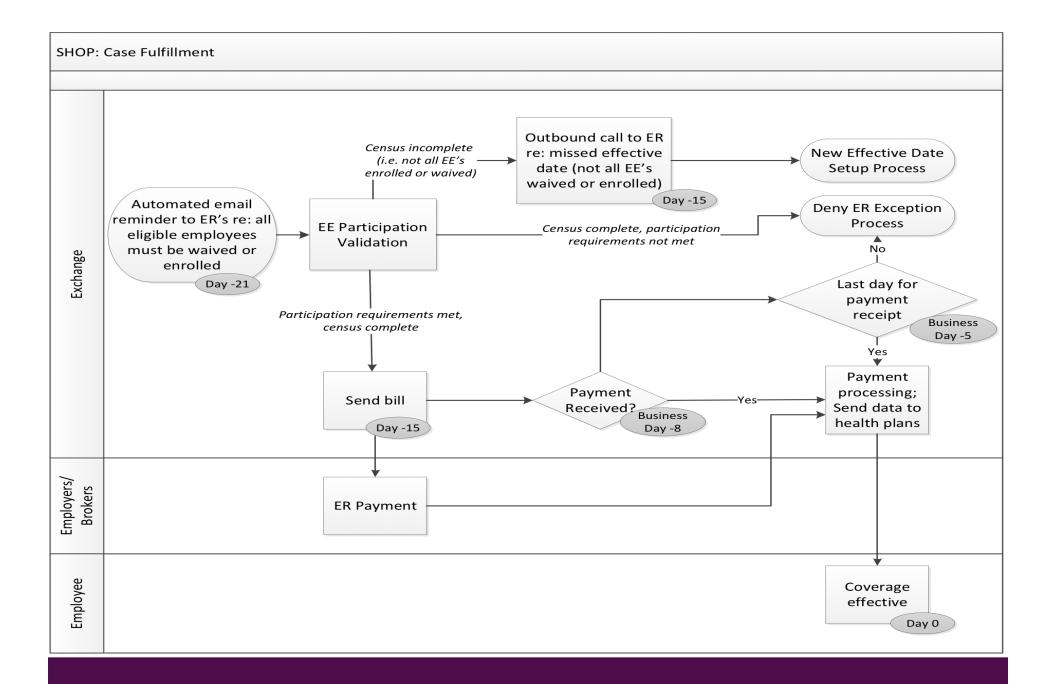
Plan Management Functions

- Annual bid/selection process for SHOP
- Maintain "closed" and "open" products
- Multiple steps/processes from account setup/shopping to case fulfillment and payment takes time (next 2 pages)
 - Very different than in Ind'l Exchange
 - Rapid cycle time for employers/brokers is critical and requires QHP cooperation, e.g mid-month retro case installation











Decision Support Tools/Processes

- Employer calculator, based on percentage or dollar contribution, including:
 - Employee-only
 - Dependent-contribution
 - Small biz tax credit
 - Benchmark plan (AV & QHP)
- Employee web-based tools similar to N-G, except that employee premiums are specific to the employer and his/her anniversary date
- Because all eligible employees must participate (or waive), web- and phone-based tools may be inadequate, so may need onsite (workplace) enrollment



Screening for Affordability

- Affordability screen required of the exchange and potential value-added service to employer
- Employee-eligible advanceable tax credits available in the Individual exchange
 - Potential for employee to save because of access to premium subsidy
 - Employer saves the amount he would have contributed to worker's premium



Affordability Standard

Applies to individual (employee-only) ESI coverage

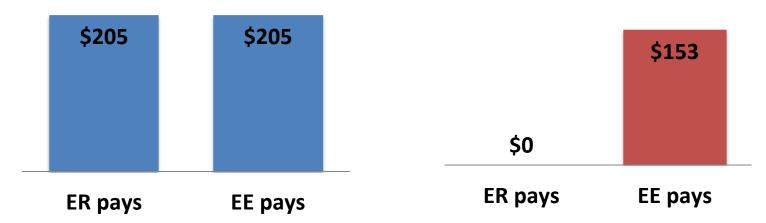
Cut-off is 9.5% of earnings, not wages

• E.G.: \$205 monthly contribution = \$2,460 per year, or >9.5% of incomes below \$25,894



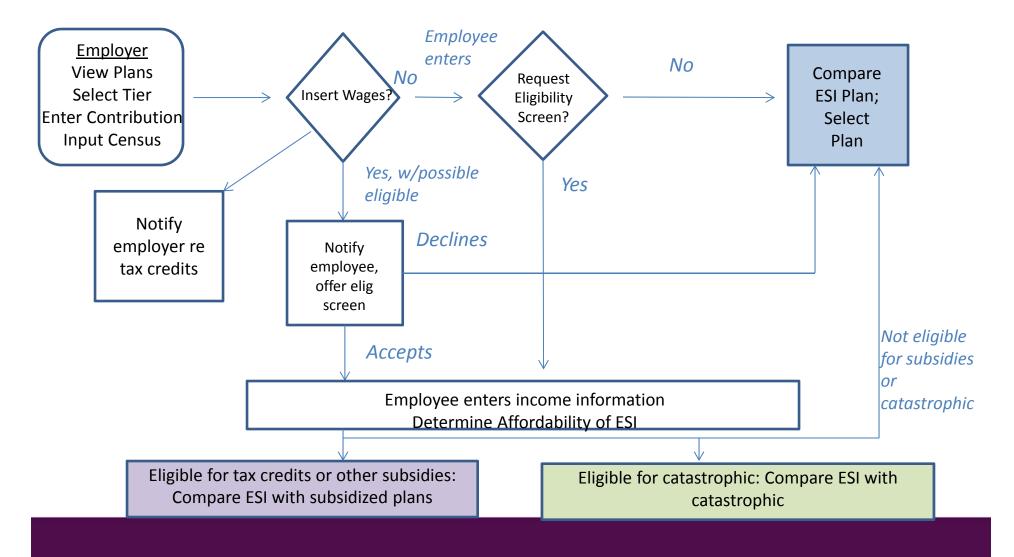
Affordability Filter: Example

- Employee makes \$25,000 per year, single premium is \$410 pm, employer pays 50% of premium
- Employee contribution is \$205 pm, or 10% of income, so employee is eligible for premium subsidy
- With subsidy, employee pays \$153 pm in non-group exchange and employer pays \$0





Affordability Filter: Process





Discussion/Questions

