



Dear Business Leader:

In April 2013, the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and the Treasury issued FAQ XIV regarding the Summary of Benefits and Coverage (SBC). That FAQ stated that minimum essential coverage and minimum values statements should be included under *Your Grievance and Appeals Rights* on page 4 of the template. Further FAQ guidance stated that the information could be included in a cover letter instead of the actual SBC. The SBC final rules issued in June 2015 continues to allow a cover letter to address these statements.

With this in mind, please include these statements with any SBC issued for the new 2017 plan year.

**Does This Coverage Provide Minimum Essential Coverage?**

The Affordable Care Act requires most people to have health care coverage that qualifies as “minimum essential coverage.” **This plan or policy does provide minimum essential coverage.**

**Does This Coverage Meet the Minimum Value Standard?**

The Affordable Care Act establishes a minimum value standard of benefits of a health plan. The minimum value standard is 60 percent (actuarial value). **This health coverage does meet the minimum value standard for the benefits it provides.**

*We used the 2016 benefits you have approved to calculate whether or not this plan met the minimum value.*

For your reference, the minimum value calculator provided by the federal government can be found here: <http://www.cms.gov/CCIIO/Resources/Regulations-and-Guidance/Downloads/mv-calculator-final-4-11-2013.xlsm>.

If you have any questions, please contact your Blue Cross service representative.

Sincerely,

BlueCross BlueShield of South Carolina