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Bcc: [REDACTED]
Subject: All Plan Letter AB 684
Date: Monday, December 21, 2015 12:00:14 PM
Attachments: [All Plan Letter AB 684 Vision FINAL-12-18-15.pdf](#)
[AB 684 Data Collection-12-18-15.xlsx](#)

Dear Health Plan Reviewer:

This email is being sent to all applicable plans which arrange for vision services concerning AB 684.

Attached you will find an All Plan Letter dated December 21, 2015.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Regards,

Nancy Wong
Deputy Director
Office of Plan Licensing
916-323-1228
Nancy.Wong@dmhc.ca.gov

ALL PLAN LETTER

DATE: December 21, 2015

TO: Specialized (Vision) Health Care Service Plans & Full Service Health Plans
Arranging for Vision Services

FROM: Nancy P. Wong
Deputy Director, Office of Plan Licensing

SUBJECT: AB 684 Workload Data Call

This All Plan Letter (APL) pertains to licensees arranging for vision services and requests that such health care service plans (plans) e-File certain information with the Department of Managed Health Care (DMHC) to assist in workload planning.

Recently enacted Assembly Bill (AB) 684 (Alejo, 2015) amends California Business and Professions (B&P) Code sections 655 and 2556 to provide two exceptions to the prohibition against optical companies, registered dispensing opticians (RDOs) and optometrists having certain business and financial relationships. The bill authorizes (1) the establishment of landlord-tenant relationships between RDOs, optical companies and plans so long as the lease agreement meets specified requirements, and (2) RDOs and optical companies to “operate, own, or have an ownership interest in a health plan so long as the health plan does not directly employ optometrists to provide optometric services directly to enrollees of the health plan[.]” Among the changes arising from AB 684 are new reporting requirements to the California Board of Optometry, for plans pursuant to B& P Code section 2556.2 subsection (f), and for optometrists pursuant to B&P Code section 2556.1.

As a result of AB 684, the DMHC anticipates (and is currently experiencing) many plans e-Filing changes to their current license application regarding relationships with their employed optometrists, contracting optometrists, and contracting RDOs. In addition, licensees may be opening and closing locations, as well as revising provider or employer contracts.

To better understand and plan for this increased workload, as well as to assist the California Board of Optometry to plan for its workload due to licensees’ reporting requirements to that Board, the DMHC requests plans arranging for vision services to e-File responses to the questions attached to this APL. If a plan contracts with a specialized (vision) plan to provide the vision services, the latter is the entity requested to file.

E-Filing Instructions

Due Date: Please e-file by January 15, 2016.

Please submit the data responding to the questions in an Amendment with the following subject: “AB 684 Workload Data Call.” Please e-File the response to questions #3 and #5 in an Exhibit

I-3 Excel spreadsheet. The only fields which the plan need report in this Exhibit I-3 are those described in this APL's attachment.

If you have any questions, please contact Lynne Schappert, Health Program Specialist at (916) 738-3361 or Lynne.Schappert@dmhc.ca.gov or Kathleen McKnight, Assistant Chief Counsel, (916) 327-7348 or Kathleen.McKnight@dmhc.ca.gov.

AB 684 Workload Data Call Questions

1. As of January 1, 2016, does the Plan employ optometrists?
This question is asking about direct “employment,” not “contracting.”
2. *If the answer to Question #1 is “yes:”* Does the Plan have any locations (including co-locations) where the Plan’s employed optometrist(s) directly treat enrollees? (For purposes of “directly treat,” please do not include an optometrist who solely performs utilization management or quality assurance.)
3. *If the answer to Question #2 is “yes:”* Please list in an Excel spreadsheet each location where the Plan will employ optometrists as of January 1, 2016. For purposes of this question, “list” means give the location’s business name (including legal, fictitious or d/b/a) and physical address. Please group the locations by county in the spreadsheet. Attached is an example Exhibit I-3.
4. As of January 1, 2016, does the Plan contract for optometric services at co-locations? “Contract” means either the Plan contracts (a) directly with optometrists, or (b) with a medical group which employs or subcontracts with optometrists and those optometrist are included in the Plan’s provider directory.
5. *If the answer to Question #4 is “yes:”* Please list in an Excel spreadsheet each co-location where the Plan contracts for optometric services, the medical group, and the number of optometrist(s) the Plan contracts for. If the Plan is also submitting a spreadsheet pursuant to Question #3, provide this list on a separate sheet with the information reflected in the example Exhibit I-3.

AB 684 Data Collection - Question 3

Plan Name	Acme Plan					
County	Location or Co-Location Name	Street Address	City	ZIP Code	Number of Employed Optometrists	Notes
Los Angeles	ABC Optometry	222 Sunrise Hill Ln	Westchester	90230	3	

AB 684 Data Collection - Question 5

Plan Name		Acme Plan					
County	Co-Location Name	Medical Group	Street Address	City	ZIP Code	Number of Medical Group Optometrists	Notes
Los Angeles	XYZ Optometry	XYZ Optometric Services	222 Sunrise Hill Ln	Westchester	90230	3	