



## **New IRS Q&As on ACA Information Reporting by Employers and Health Coverage Providers**

Two sets of recently released questions and answers from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) provide guidance on the information reporting requirements under the Affordable Care Act (ACA). [One set of Q&As](#) relates to information reporting by health coverage providers under Internal Revenue Code (IRC) section 6055, and the [other set of Q&As](#) relates to reporting on offers of health insurance coverage by employers under IRC section 6056.

### **Background**

The ACA requires insurers, self-insuring employers, and other parties that provide [minimum essential health coverage](#) (MEC) to report information on this coverage to the IRS and to covered individuals ("section 6055 reporting"). Large employers (generally those with **50 or more full-time employees**, including full-time equivalents) are also required to report information to the IRS and to their employees about their compliance with the [employer shared responsibility provisions](#) ("pay or play") and the health care coverage they have offered ("section 6056 reporting").



### **New Q&As**

Both sets of Q&As make clear that information reporting under sections 6055 and 6056 is voluntary for calendar year 2014. Therefore, the first section 6055 and 6056 returns required to be filed are for the 2015 calendar year and **must be filed no later than March 1, 2016** (February 28, 2016, being a Sunday), or March 31, 2016, if filed electronically.

The Q&As also provide information regarding:

- The basics of employer and provider reporting;
- Who is required to report;
- Methods of reporting for employers under section 6056 (including alternative reporting methods);
- What information is required to be reported; and
- How to report the required information.

Generally, large employers will file a section 6056 return by filing a Form 1094-C (transmittal) and, for each full-time employee, a Form 1095-C (employee statement), while a health coverage provider will report under section 6055 on Form 1094-B and Form 1095-B. However, employers that are subject to both reporting provisions (generally large employers that sponsor self-insured group health plans) are permitted to satisfy their reporting obligations on Form 1095-C, which will have separate sections for reporting under section 6055 and 6056.

### **Draft Forms & Instructions**

The Q&As also reference draft forms that were released in July to help reporting entities prepare for compliance. The following draft forms, including draft instructions, are now available:

- **MEC Reporting (Section 6055)**
  - [Draft Form 1094-B](#)
  - [Draft Form 1095-B](#)
  - [Draft Instructions](#)
- **Large Employer Reporting (Section 6056)**
  - [Draft Form 1094-C](#)
  - [Draft Form 1095-C](#)

- [Draft Instructions](#)

The IRS intends to finalize both the forms and instructions later this year. [Click here](#) for more information on the reporting requirements.

Be sure to visit our [ACA by Year & Company Size](#) section for other upcoming requirements related to Health Care Reform.

**Health Care Reform Updates provided by:**

Brown & Brown of Garden City Inc.  
595 Stewart Ave, Garden City, NY, 11530  
516-745-1111

Please Note: The information and materials herein are provided for general information purposes only and are not intended to constitute legal or other advice or opinions on any specific matters and are not intended to replace the advice of a qualified attorney, plan provider or other professional advisor. This information has been taken from sources which we believe to be reliable, but there is no guarantee as to its accuracy. In accordance with IRS Circular 230, this communication is not intended or written to be used, and cannot be used as or considered a 'covered opinion' or other written tax advice and should not be relied upon for any purpose other than its intended purpose.

The information provided herein is intended solely for the use of our clients and members. You may not display, reproduce, copy, modify, license, sell or disseminate in any manner any information included herein, without the express permission of the Publisher. Kindly read our Terms of Use and respect our Copyright.

© 2014 HR 360, Inc. - All rights reserved