



SOCIETY OF ACTUARIES

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# Diary of a Health Care Reform Actuary

APRIL 2013, ANY DAY – ANY TOWN, USA

By Olga Jacobs

- 12 a.m. Sleeping soundly and dreaming of sipping wine in Tuscany.
- 1 a.m. Wake up in a cold sweat. Had nightmare that I missed the April 30 deadline for submitting FFE QHP Templates and was fired.
- 2 a.m. Sleeping soundly and dreaming of eating gelato in Florence.
- 3 a.m. Wake up in terror. Had nightmare that I forgot to account for guaranteed issue in proposed rates for individual exchange rate filings. Sold 1 million policies. Crowned as actuarial hero. Stripped of crown when Finance reported loss ratio of 1,000 percent.
- 4 a.m. Sleeping soundly and dreaming of hiking in the Alps.
- 5 a.m. Wake up in terror. Had nightmare that I told Products that AV de minimis was +/- 20 percent, not +/-2 percent. All product submissions rejected. No benefit plan receives QHP certification. Fired (again!).
- 6 a.m. Wake up. Just the alarm this time!
- 7 a.m. Drink three doppio espresso macchiatos from Starbucks.
- 8 a.m. Check email. See 20 emails from “do not reply@cms.hhs.gov.” All 20 of the Unified Rate Review Templates I submitted yesterday were rejected. All failed due to invalid date format. Everyone at work knows ... thanks to my wisdom of designating 85 submitters and validators.
- 10 a.m. Meeting with Exchange IT Project Management Team. They want a list of every single report that Actuarial would produce effective Jan. 1, 2014 with exchange experience.
- 11 a.m. Still laughing at IT’s request.
- 12 p.m. Tasked with running the Minimum Value Calculator on every unique benefit plan sold to large groups. There are 6,000 plans. Due today.
- 1 p.m. Attend REGTAP meeting on QHP Certification. Zone out after the 75th caller explains their very, very specific template upload problem ... which is the same as the other 74 previous callers.
- 2 p.m. Starving. Eat nutritious lunch of 2 handfuls of almonds and a Diet Coke.
- 3 p.m. HHS releases 762 pages of proposed regulations related to FFE.
- 3:01 p.m. Senior management calls to express disappointment that my analysis of the 762 pages is not already completed.



- 4 p.m. Get hit in head with foul ball coming down third base line at Little League game. Wasn’t watching due to reading IRS Contraception Guidelines on iPhone. Find out my son was at bat!
- 5 p.m. Call actuary at state department of insurance and explain URRT submission.
- 6 p.m. Have dinner with the family. Entertain (OK, OK ... bore) them with scenarios of employer dumping into the individual exchange.
- 7 p.m. Call and email every health actuary I know to see if they can present at SOA Health Meeting. Getting turned down by everyone as they are “too busy with health care reform.” Special place in heaven for those who said yes.
- 8 p.m. Read *The Jobs Almanac* to see if I can find a better career than an actuary. Can’t.
- 9 p.m. Read FAQ #75. Get the answer on cost sharing reductions that I was hoping for. Direct IT how to pay claims for members in cost sharing reduced plans on non-EHB benefits.
- 10 p.m. Read FAQ #76. No longer have the answer of cost sharing reduction that I wanted. Neglect to tell IT.
- 11 p.m. Watch *Game of Thrones*. Come to conclusion implementing the Affordable Care Act would be much simpler if my name was Daenerys Targaryen and I had a dragon. ■



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