


Title: Certifying eligibility for a dependent child with a disability who is age twenty-six or older

PEBB Program Administrative Policy 36-1

Contact:	Policy and Rules Coordinator, ERB Division	Effective:	January 1, 2021
		Rescinded:	
Associated RCW:	41.05.080, 41.05.090, 41.05.095, 48.20.420, 48.44.210	Supersedes:	
Associated PEBB Board Policy Resolutions:			
Associated WAC:	182-12-109, 182-12-128, 182-12-171, 182-12-180, 182-12-211, 182-12-260, 182-12-262, 182-12-265, 182-12-270		
Assoc. fed law/reg:		Owner:	Policy, Rules, & Compliance Manager, ERB Division
Associated Procedures:			
Associated Forms & Communication	PEBB Certification of a Child with a Disability	Approved by:	
		Position:	Director of the PEBB Program
		Date approved:	September 17, 2020

Purpose

This policy applies whenever a subscriber requests to enroll or continue enrollment for a dependent child with a disability who is age twenty-six or older on their Public Employees Benefits Board (PEBB) subscriber account.

WAC 182-12-109: "Health plan" means a plan offering medical or dental, or both, developed by the board and provided by a contracted vendor or self-insured plans administered by the HCA.

Policy

1. Children are eligible for PEBB health plan coverage as defined in WAC 182-12-260(3). The rule includes the eligibility criteria that a dependent child age twenty-six or older must satisfy to be enrolled on a PEBB subscriber account.

2. WAC 182-12-260 (3)(g) describes an eligible dependent child age twenty-six or older as one with a developmental or physical disability that renders the child incapable of self-sustaining employment and chiefly dependent upon the subscriber for support and maintenance provided such condition occurs before age twenty-six.
3. The PEBB Program must verify the eligibility of a dependent child age twenty-six or older with a disability. The PEBB Program will receive input from the subscriber's medical plan for the clinical review portion of the certification.
4. When a subscriber is enrolling a dependent child age twenty-six or older as a disabled dependent, the following requirements apply:
 - a. If the dependent is already enrolled in PEBB health plan coverage and is turning age twenty-six, the *completed PEBB Certification of a Child with a Disability* form must be received according to Table 36-1 by the following organizations:
 - i. For enrollment in dental only or enrollment in a Medicare Advantage-Prescription Drug (MA-PD) plan, send the form to the PEBB Program; or
 - ii. For all other medical enrollment, send the form to the subscriber's medical plan.
 - b. If the dependent is age twenty-six or older and is being enrolled in PEBB health plan coverage for the first time, the subscriber must complete and submit the *PEBB Certification of a Child with a Disability* form and documentation to support the request to add a dependent child age twenty-six or older with a disability on their health plan. This documentation must be received according to Table 36-1 by the following organizations:
 - i. For enrollment in dental only or enrollment in a MA-PD plan, send the form to the PEBB Program; or
 - ii. For all other medical enrollment, send the form to the subscriber's medical plan.
 - c. If the dependent has already been certified by the PEBB Program as a dependent child age twenty-six or older with a disability, and is being recertified by the PEBB Program, the completed *PEBB Certification of a Child with a Disability* form must be received by the last day of the month in which the child's certification is scheduled to end. The documentation should be sent to the following:
 - i. For enrollment in dental only or enrollment in a MA-PD plan, send the form to the PEBB Program; or
 - ii. For all other medical enrollment, send the form to the subscriber's medical plan.

- d. If you are a subscriber moving from School Employees Benefits Board (SEBB) Program coverage to PEBB Program coverage with a disabled dependent and the disabled dependent is currently enrolled in health plan coverage through the SEBB Program, they are not required to complete the *PEBB Certification of a Child with a Disability* form to recertify until their current certification issued, while they were enrolled in SEBB health plan coverage expires.

Disabled Dependent Certification Timeline table	
ENROLLMENT EVENT	ENROLLMENT TIME LIMIT
New employee enrolling a disabled dependent child age 26 or older with a disability	No later than 31 days after the employee becomes eligible
SEBB Program coverage to PEBB Program coverage	If the subscriber's disabled dependent is currently certified and enrolled in SEBB health plan coverage, a <i>PEBB Certification of a Child with a Disability</i> form is not required. Recertification is not required until their current SEBB health plan coverage certification's expiration date.
<p>New continuation coverage subscriber enrolling a disabled dependent age 26 or older with a disability</p> <p>New retiree enrolling a disabled dependent age 26 or older with a disability</p> <p>Elected and full-time appointed official of the legislative or executive branch of state government enrolling in PEBB retiree insurance coverage and enrolling a disabled dependent age 26 or older with a disability</p>	<p>No later than 60 days from the date the employee's PEBB health plan coverage ended or from the postmark date on the election notice sent by the PEBB Program; whichever is later</p> <p>No later than 60 days after the employee's employer-paid coverage, COBRA coverage, or continuation coverage ends</p> <p>No later than 60 days after the official leaves public office</p>

Disabled Dependent Certification Timeline table	
ENROLLMENT EVENT	ENROLLMENT TIME LIMIT
<p>New survivor of an elected and full-time appointed official of the legislative and executive branch of state government enrolling a disabled dependent age 26 or older with a disability</p> <p>New survivor of emergency service personnel killed in the line of duty enrolling a disabled dependent age 26 or older with a disability</p> <p>New survivor of an eligible employee or school employee described in WAC 182-12-265 enrolling a disabled dependent age 26 or older with a disability</p> <p>New survivor of eligible retiree described in WAC 182-12-265 enrolling a disabled dependent age 26 or older with a disability</p>	<p>No later than 60 days after the later of the date of the official's death or the date the survivor's PEBB insurance coverage ends.</p> <p>No later than 180 days after the later of the dates described in WAC 182-12-250(5).</p> <p>No later than 60 days after the later of the date of the employee's death or the date the survivor's PEBB, SEBB, or Washington state educational service district insurance coverage ends.</p> <p>No later than 60 days after the retiree's death.</p>
<p>Current subscriber requesting continued enrollment for a dependent when the dependent reaches the limiting age for a child (26th birthday)</p> <p>New employee or current subscriber requesting enrollment of a dependent age 26 or older based on disability during open enrollment</p> <p>Current subscriber requesting enrollment of a dependent child age 26 or older based on disability during a qualifying event under special open enrollment rules</p>	<p>No later than 60 days after the disabled dependent turns age 26</p> <p>The last day of the annual open enrollment period</p> <p>No later than 60 days after the event that creates the special open enrollment</p>
<p>Recertification of a dependent child currently enrolled as a dependent with a disability</p>	<p>The last day of the month in which the child's certification by the PEBB Program is scheduled to end. This is the date the child's enrollment in PEBB</p>

Disabled Dependent Certification Timeline table	
ENROLLMENT EVENT	ENROLLMENT TIME LIMIT
	coverage is scheduled to terminate as referenced in PEBB mailings sent to the subscriber.

Table 36-1

5. The PEBB Program determines whether a dependent meets the requirements for enrollment as a dependent child age twenty-six or older with a disability based on the following:
 - a. The dependent has a developmental or physical disability, present before the age of twenty-six, that renders them incapable of self-sustaining employment; and
 - b. The dependent is chiefly dependent upon the subscriber for support and maintenance.
6. The PEBB Program will periodically verify the eligibility of a dependent child age twenty-six or older with a disability, but no more frequently than annually after the two-year period following the child's twenty-sixth birthday. Verification will require renewed proof of disability and dependence from the subscriber. The initial verification and any following verification will be conducted according to WAC 182-12-260 (3)(g)(i) - (v).
7. If a subscriber changes health plans and the new plan is administered by a different contracted vendor, the child must be recertified by the PEBB Program in order to continue enrollment. If the subscriber elects to waive medical and the child is enrolled in dental, the child must be recertified by the PEBB Program in order to continue the dependent child's enrollment. An exception occurs when the dependent child has been recertified within the last twelve months (after the two-year period following the child's twenty-sixth birthday).
8. A subscriber who requests to enroll a dependent child age twenty-six or older with a disability must also meet the PEBB Program's procedural requirements described in WAC 182-12-262; the dependent child must meet the eligibility requirements described in WAC 182-12-260. The PEBB Program will review the subscriber's enrollment request to determine if the subscriber satisfied the following eligibility and procedural requirements:
 - a. The subscriber provided evidence of the dependent child's eligibility described in WAC 182-12-260; and
 - b. The subscriber submitted the enrollment form within the required time frame.
9. For a subscriber that meets the eligibility and procedural requirements to enroll an eligible dependent child age twenty-six or older with a disability, the effective date of

PEBB health plan coverage for the dependent child with a disability will be as follows:

- a. When the subscriber becomes eligible and enrolls in PEBB benefits, the dependent child will be enrolled with the same effective date as the subscriber (WAC 182-12-262 (1)(a)).
- b. When the subscriber enrolls the dependent child during the PEBB Program's annual open enrollment, PEBB coverage begins January 1st of the following year (WAC 182-12-262 (1)(b)).
- c. When a subscriber enrolls the dependent child due to a special open enrollment event, PEBB coverage begins the first day of the month following the later of the event date or eligibility certification (WAC 182-12-262 (3)(a)(ii)).

"Eligibility certification" means the date the PEBB Program receives all of the required information to make a determination, including input from the medical plans, and the date the determination notice is provided to the PEBB Program to certify.

- d. When the subscriber enrolls the dependent child due to a National Medical Support Notice (NMSN) requirement to cover a dependent child, PEBB health plan coverage begins the first day of the month following receipt by the employing agency of the NMSN. If the NMSN is received by the employing agency on the first day of the month, the change to health plan coverage or enrollment begins on that day (WAC 182-12-262 (1)(d) and WAC 182-12-263 (1)(d)).
 - e. When the subscriber requests continued enrollment in PEBB health plan coverage upon the dependent child turning age twenty-six, the dependent child will continue enrollment the first day of the month following the month they turn age twenty-six.
10. When the subscriber enrolls a dependent child who is a non-qualified tax dependent, the subscriber must complete a *PEBB Declaration of Tax Status* form. If the subscriber is an employee eligible to participate in a salary reduction plan as described in WAC 182-12-116, the monthly medical premium for the non-qualified tax dependent will be withheld from the employee's paycheck post-tax.