Collecting Social Security Numbers for UC SHIP

Q: I don’t want to provide my SSN/Do I have to provide my SSN?
A: The Affordable Care Act (2017 ACA) requires most Americans, including college students and eligible dependents, to have qualified health insurance throughout the year.

A new IRS regulation requires that health plans must annually report covered members’ Social Security Numbers in order to verify that these individuals have health insurance that satisfies the requirements of the ACA throughout the year. If your or your dependent’s status as a member under UC SHIP is not reported, you could be subject to tax penalties. This new federally required reporting begins with the 2015 calendar.

Q: What information are health plans required to include in the annual report?
A: Name, address, SSN and coverage dates for each plan member, including covered dependents. As a health plan administrator, UC SHIP must report this information to verify members were covered for each month in calendar year 2017.

Q: How will my information be reported to the IRS for 2017?
The University of California Office of the President (UCOP) has engaged USI (formerly Wells Fargo Insurance Services) to collect and report UC SHIP member SSNs to the IRS on their behalf. Although an SSN is not required for UC enrollment, UC SHIP, as a medical health plan, is required under the Internal Revenue Code to request missing SSNs several times before and after the required IRS filing.

Q: How can I verify that I have qualified coverage?
You will receive a Form 1095-B to verify that the IRS-required filing has been completed. You can use information on this form to report on your 2015 tax return that you have qualifying health plan coverage for some or all months during the year. You do not have to attach Form 1095-B to your tax return.


Q: Is this information secure?
A: Yes, your personal information will be stored in a fully secure USI data center and it will be shared only with the IRS to satisfy ACA reporting requirements.

Q: Can I just contact UCOP or the insurance company directly to provide my SSN?
A: The University of California Office of the President (UCOP) has engaged USI to collect and deliver the SSNs to the IRS on their behalf. All inquiries will be redirected to us.

Q: What if I don’t have a SSN?
A: If you do not have a Social Security Number and do not pay United States taxes, then you may be excluded from the Individual Mandate to obtain coverage under the Affordable Care Act and the related reporting requirements. Contact your tax advisor if you have questions.

Q: If I provide my SSN to you, will I avoid getting the follow-up mailings?
A: Yes, because we have been contracted by UCOP to manage the collection and delivery of SSNs, you can avoid future SSN requests from us by providing it now. If you do not provide your SSN by the time the report is due to the IRS and the information on your tax return cannot be verified, you may also be contacted by the IRS.