

ACA Section 1557: Are you complying?

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services issued a final rule implementing Section 1557 of the Affordable Care Act. The new rule “Nondiscrimination in Health Programs and Activities,” prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability in certain health programs. The rule applies to “Covered Entities” which include most healthcare service providers who participate in government healthcare programs. To comply with the new rules these actions must be taken, among others: 1. Provide free language services free of charge 2. Employers with 15 or more employees must adopt a grievance procedure and designate a compliance coordinator 3. Make electronically-provided services and auxiliary aids accessible to those with disabilities 4. Post notices stating the nondiscrimination policies and language assistance services