salaried employes; and for properly accredited teaching facilities conducting approved training programs for medical or osteopathic physicians licensed or to be licensed under ch. 448, Stats., or for nurses licensed or to be licensed under ch. 441, Stats.; and to provide health care liability insurance coverage and liability coverages normally incidental to health care liability insurance on a self-supporting basis for all hospitals as defined by s. 50.33 (1) (a) and (c), Stats., but excluding those facilities exempted by s. 50.39 (3), Stats., except as otherwise provided herein, which operate in this state. Health care liability insurance coverage and liability coverages normally incidental to health care liability insurance on a self-supporting basis for those nursing homes as defined in s. 50.01 (3) (a), Stats., which operate in this state and whose functional operations are combined with a hospital as herein defined as a single entity, whether or not the nursing home operations are physically separate from the hospital operations is also provided. Health care liability insurance coverage and liability coverages normally incidental to health care liability insurance on a self-supporting basis for those health care facilities owned or operated by a political subdivision of the state of Wisconsin is also provided. Health care liability insurance coverage for allied health care personnel employed by any of these health care providers while working within scope of such employment may also be provided. This rule is also intended to encourage the improvement in reasonable loss prevention measures and to encourage the maximum use of the existing voluntary market.

(3) SCOPE. This rule shall apply to all insurers authorized to transact in this state on a direct basis insurance against liability resulting from personal injuries, except for town mutuals authorized to transact insurance under ch. 612, Stats.

(4) DEFINITIONS. (a) *The Wisconsin health care liability insurance plan,* hereinafter referred to as the Plan, means the statutory, nonprofit, unincorporated association established by this rule to provide for the issuance of health care liability insurance and liability coverages normally incidental to health care liability insurance at adequate rate levels for risk sharing subject to the right of recoupment and to assist qualified applicants in securing health care liability insurance and liability coverage normally incidental to health care liability insurance.

(b) Insurance against liability resulting from personal injuries means all insurance coverages against loss by the personal injury or death of any person for which loss the insured is liable. It includes the personal injury liability component of multi-peril policies, but it does not include steam boiler insurance authorized under section Ins 6.75 (2) (a), worker's compensation insurance authorized under section Ins 6.75 (2) (k), or medical expense coverage authorized under section Ins 6.75 (2) (d) or (e).

(c) Health care liability insurance means insurance against loss, expense and liability resulting from errors, omissions or neglect in the performance of any professional service by any medical or osteopathic physician or podiatrist licensed under ch. 448, Stats., and nurse anesthetists licensed under ch. 441, Stats., who practice in this state; by operating cooperative sickness care plans organized under ss. 185.981 to 185.985, Stats., which directly provide services in their own facilities with salaried employes; by properly accredited teaching facilities conducting approved training programs for medical or osteopathic physicians licensed or to be licensed under ch. 448, Stats., or for nurses licensed or to be

licensed under ch. 441, Stats.; by all hospitals as defined by s. 50.33 (1) (a) and (c), Stats., but excluding those facilities exempted by s. 50.39 (3), Stats., except as otherwise provided; by those nursing homes as defined in s. 50.01 (3) (a), Stats., whose functional operations are combined with a hospital as herein defined as a single entity, whether or not nursing home operations are physically separate from the hospital operations, which operate in this state; and by health care facilities owned or operated by a political subdivision of the state of Wisconsin.

(d) Liability coverage normally incidental to health care liability insurance shall include owners, landlords and tenants liability insurance; owners and contractors protective liability insurance; completed operations and products liability insurance; contractual liability insurance and personal injury liability insurance.

(e) Premiums written means gross direct premiums less return premiums, dividends paid or credited to policyholders, or the unused or unabsorbed portions of premium deposits, with respect to insurance against liability resulting from personal injuries covering insureds or risks resident or located in this state excluding premiums on risks insured under the Plan.

(f) Servicing company means an insurer which services policies issued on behalf of the Plan.

(g) Confidental claims information means any information relating to the Plan in the possession of the commissioner, the board of governors or an agent thereof which reveals, directly or indirectly, the identity of a health care provider, as defined in s. 655.001 (8), Stats.

(h) Political subdivision means counties, cities, villages and towns.

(5) INSURANCE COVERAGE. (a) All medical or osteopathic physicians or podiatrists licensed under ch. 448, Stats., and nurse anesthetists licensed under ch. 441, Stats., who practice in this state; operating cooperative sickness care plans organized under ss. 185.981 to 185.985, Stats., which directly provide services in their own facilities with salaried employes; by properly accredited teaching facilities conducting approved training programs for medical or osteopathic physicians licensed or to be licensed under ch. 448, Stats., or for nurses licensed or to be licensed under ch. 441, Stats.; all hospitals as defined by s. 50.33 (1) (a) and (c), Stats., but excluding those facilities exempted by s. 50.39 (3), Stats., except as otherwise provided herein; those nursing homes as defined in s. 50.01 (3) (a), Stats., whose functional operations are combined with a hospital as defined as a single entity, whether or not the nursing home operations are physically separate from the hospital operations; and health care facilities owned or operated by a political subdivision of the state of Wisconsin, which operate in this state and are equitably entitled to but are otherwise unable to obtain suitable health care liability insurance in the voluntary market shall be eligible to apply for insurance under this Plan. Coverage for allied health care personnel employed by any of these health care providers while working within the scope of such employment may also be requested.

(b) The maximum limits of coverage for the type of health care liability insurance defined in subsection (4) (c) which may be placed under this Plan are $200,000 per claim and $600,000 aggregate for all claims in any one policy year.

(c) The maximum limits of coverage for liability coverages normally incidental to health care liability insurance as defined in subsection (4) (d) which may be placed under this Plan are $1,000,000 per claim and $1,000,000 aggregate for all claims in any one policy year.

(d) Health care liability coverage shall be provided in a standard policy form on an occurrence basis, i.e., coverage for any liability based on a treatment, omission or operation which occurs during the term of the policy and which is brought within the time the applicable statute of limitations continues the liability. The board of governors may authorize the issuance of policies on other bases as an option under the Plan subject to such restrictions and rules as it may deem necessary and appropriate in the circumstances.

(e) Any policyholder holding coverage under the Wisconsin Health Care Liability Insurance Plan shall continue to be subject to the rules governing the Plan which were in force when the coverage was obtained. The renewal of any such coverage shall be subject to the provisions of the rule in effect at the time of the renewal. All obligations and liabilities created under such prior rule shall continue in force under the Plan until they are extinguished.

(f) Coverage for hospitals, nursing homes, or health care facilities owned or operated by a political subdivision of the state of Wisconsin which are eligible for insurance under this plan may include liability coverages normally incidental to health care liability insurance as defined in subsection (4) (d).

(6) MEMBERSHIP. (a) Every insurer, subject to subsection (3) shall be a member of this Plan.

(b) An insurer's membership terminates when the insurer is no longer authorized to write personal injury liability insurance in Wisconsin, but the effective date of termination shall be the last day of the fiscal year of the Plan in which termination occurs. Any insurer so terminated shall continue to be governed by the provisions of this rule until it completes all of its obligations under the Plan.

(c) Subject to the approval of the commissioner, the board of governors may charge a reasonable membership fee, not to exceed $50.00.

(7) ADMINISTRATION. (a) The Plan shall be administered by a board of governors.

(b) The board of governors shall consist of the commissioner or his designated representative, and 10 other board members. Each shall have one vote.

1. The commissioner shall appoint 5 board members from insurers who are members of the Plan.

a. The following associations shall at the direction of the commissioner nominate board members:

American Insurance Association
Alliance of American Insurers
National Association of Independent Insurers
Wisconsin Insurance Alliance

b. The commissioner shall appoint one board member from other insurers not members of the associations in subdivision a.

2. The state bar association shall appoint one board member who shall be an attorney.

3. The Wisconsin medical society shall appoint one board member who shall be a physician.

4. The Wisconsin Hospital Association shall appoint one board member.

5. The Governor shall appoint 2 public board members for staggered three-year terms who are not attorneys or physicians and who are not professionally affiliated with any hospital or insurance company.

(c) The commissioner or his representative shall be chairman of the board of governors.

(d) Board members other than the commissioner or his representative shall be compensated at the rate of $50 per diem plus actual necessary travel expenses.

(8) DUTIES OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS. (a) The board of governors shall meet as often as may be required to perform the general duties of the administration of the Plan or on the call of the commissioner. Six members of the board shall constitute a quorum.

(b) The board of governors shall be empowered to invest, borrow and disburse funds, budget expenses, levy assessments, cede and assume reinsurance, and perform all other duties provided herein as necessary or incidental to the proper administration of the Plan. The board of governors may appoint a manager or one or more agents to perform such duties as may be designated by the board.

(c) The board of governors shall develop rates, rating plans, rating and underwriting rules, rate classifications, rate territories, and policy forms in accordance with ss. 619.01 (1) (c) 2., 619.04 (5), 625.11, and 625.12, Stats., and subsection (12) of this rule.

(d) The board of governors shall cause all policies written pursuant to this Plan to be separately coded so that appropriate records may be compiled for purposes of calculating the adequate premium level for each classification of risk, and performing loss prevention and other studies of the operation of the Plan.

(e) The board of governors shall determine, subject to the approval of the commissioner, the eligibility of an insurer to act as a servicing company. If no qualified insurer elects to be a servicing company, the board of governors shall assume such duties on behalf of member companies.

(f) The board of governors shall enter into agreements and contracts as may be necessary for the execution of this rule consistent with its provisions.

(g) The board of governors may appoint advisory committees of interested persons, not limited to members of the Plan, to advise the board in the fulfillment of its duties and functions.

(h) The board of governors shall be empowered to develop, at its option, an assessment credit plan subject to the approval of the commissioner, wherein a member of the Plan receives a credit against an assessment levied, based upon Wisconsin voluntarily written health care liability insurance premiums.

(i) The board of governors of the Plan shall be authorized to take such actions as are consistent with law to provide the appropriate examining boards or the department of health and social services with such claims information as may be appropriate.

(j) The board of governors shall assume all duties and obligations formerly vested in the governing committee whenever it becomes necessary to administer any of the provisions governing the Wisconsin Health Care Liability Insurance Plan, which provisions preceded the adoption of the provisions contained in this rule.

(9) ANNUAL REPORTS AND RECORDS. (a) By May 1 of each year the board of governors shall make a report to the members of the Plan and to the standing committees on health insurance in each house of the legislature summarizing the activities of the Plan in the preceding calendar year.

(b) All books, records, documents or audits relating to the Plan or its operation shall be open to public inspection, with the exception of confidential claims information.

(10) APPLICATION FOR INSURANCE. (a) Any medical or osteopathic physician, podiatrist, nurse anesthetist, operating cooperative sickness care plan, teaching facility, hospital, nursing home, or health care facility owned or operated by a political subdivision of the state of Wisconsin eligible for insurance under this plan may submit an application for insurance by the plan directly or through any licensed agent. Such application may include requests for coverage of allied health care providers while working within the scope of such employment.

(b) The Plan may bind coverage.

(c) The Plan shall, within 8 business days from receipt of an application, notify the applicant of the acceptance, rejection or the holding in abeyance of the application pending further investigation. Any individuals rejected by the Plan shall have the right to appeal that judgment within 30 days to the board of governors in accordance with subsection (16).

(d) If the risk is accepted by the Plan, a policy shall be delivered to the applicant upon payment of the premium. The Plan shall remit any commission to the licensed agent designated by the applicant; if no licensed agent is so designated, such commission shall be retained by the Plan.

(11) ASSESSMENTS AND PARTICIPATION. (a) In the event that sufficient funds are not available for the sound financial operation of the Plan, and pending recoupment pursuant to s. 619.01 (1) (c) 2., Stats., all members shall, on a temporary basis, contribute to the financial needs of the Plan in the manner prescribed in paragraph (b). When such assessment contribution is recouped, it shall be reimbursed to members as their total share of the assessment contribution bears to the aggregate outstanding contributions.

(b) All members of the Plan shall participate in all premiums, other income, losses, expenses, and costs of the Plan in the proportion that the premiums written of each such member [excluding that portion of premiums attributable to the operation of the Plan and giving effect to any assessment credit plan under subsection (8) (h)] during the preceding calendar year bears to the aggregate premiums written in this state by

all members of the Plan. Each member's participation in the Plan shall be determined annually on the basis of such premiums written during the preceding calendar year, as reported in the annual statements and other reports filed by the member with the commissioner of insurance.

(12) RATES, RATE CLASSIFICATIONS, AND FILINGS. Rates, rate classifications, and filings for coverages issued by the Plan shall be generally subject to ch. 625, Stats., and specifically shall meet the requirements of ss. 619.01 (1) (c) 2., 619.04 (5), 625.11, and 625.12, Stats. Rates and rate classifications shall not discriminate on the basis of the insured's sex, marital status, race, color, creed or national origin. Information supporting the rates and rate classifications filed with the commissioner shall be made a part of such filing. Rates, rate classifications and filings shall be developed in accordance with the following standards or rules:

(a) *Rates.* 1. Rates shall not be excessive, inadequate or unfairly discriminatory.

2. Rates shall be calculated in accordance with generally accepted actuarial principles, using the best available data and shall be reviewed by the board of governors at least once each year.

3. Rates shall be calculated on a basis which will make the Plan self-supporting and shall be presumed excessive if they produce a long run profit or surplus for the Plan over losses and expenses, and loss reserves (including contingency reserves).

4. Any deficit incurred by the Plan in any one year shall be recouped by rate increases applicable prospectively, or any surplus over the loss reserves of the Plan in any one year shall be distributed by rate decreases applicable prospectively.

5. Rates shall reflect past and prospective loss and expense experience in different areas of practice.

6. Wisconsin loss and expense experience shall be used in establishing and reviewing rates to the extent it is statistically credible supplemented by relevant data from outside the state; relevant data shall include, but not be limited to, data provided by other insurance companies, rate service organizations or governmental agencies.

7. Loss and expense experience used in determining initial or revised rates shall be adjusted to indicate as nearly as possible the loss and expense experience which will emerge on policies issued by the Plan during the period for which the rates were being established; for this purpose loss experience shall include paid and unpaid losses, a provision for incurred but not reported losses, and both allocated and unallocated loss adjustment expenses and consideration shall be given to changes in estimated costs of unpaid claims and to indications of trends in claim frequency, claim severity, and level of loss expense.

8. Review of rates for the Plan shall begin with the experience of the Plan, supplemented first by Wisconsin experience of coverage provided by other insurers, and then, to the extent necessary for statistical credibility, by relevant data from outside the state.

9. Information supporting the rate filing shall indicate the existence, extent and nature of any subjective factors in the rates based on judgment of technical personnel, such as consideration of the reasonableness

of the rates compared to the cost of comparable coverage where it is available.

10. Expense provisions included in the rate to be used by the Plan shall reflect reasonable prospective operating expense levels of the Plan.

11. All accumulated net income, including investment income under the Plan, shall be used to modify the indicated rates promulgated in accordance with the foregoing criteria.

12. Provision may be made for modification of rates for individual risks in accordance with rating plans or surcharge schedules which establish reasonable standards for measuring probable variation in hazards, expenses, or both.

(b) *Classifications.* 1. Classifications shall reflect past and prospective loss and expense experience in different areas of practice.

2. Classifications shall be established which measure to the extent possible variations in exposure to loss and in expenses based upon the best data available.

3. Classifications shall include recognition of any difference in the exposure to loss of semi-retired or part-time professionals.

4. Classifications shall to the extent possible reflect past and prospective loss and expense experience of risks insured in the Plan and other relevant experience from within and outside this state.

5. Classification schedules may provide for modification of rates for individual risks in accordance with rating plans or surcharge schedules which establish reasonable standards for measuring probable variations in hazards, expenses, or both.

6. Classifications shall be reviewed by the board of governors at least once each year.

(c) *Filings.* 1. All filings of rates, classifications and supporting information of the Plan and all changes and amendments thereof shall be filed with the commissioner within 30 days after they become effective.

2. These filings shall be open to public inspection during the usual business hours of the office of the commissioner of insurance.

(13) VOLUNTARY BUSINESS - CANCELLATION AND NONRENEWAL. Any member cancelling or not renewing voluntarily written health care liability insurance covering any risk eligible under this Plan shall inform the policyholder of the availability of insurance under the Plan. Any such notice of cancellation or nonrenewal shall allow ample time for application to the Plan and for the issuance of coverage. A copy of such cancellation or nonrenewal notice shall be filed with the office of the commissioner of insurance.

(14) PLAN BUSINESS - CANCELLATION AND NONRENEWAL. (a) The Plan shall not cancel or refuse to renew a policy issued under the Plan except for:

1. Nonpayment of premium; or

2. Revocation of the license of the insured by the appropriate licensing board.

(b) Notice of cancellation or nonrenewal under paragraph (a), containing a statement of the reasons therefor, shall be sent to the insured with a copy to the Plan. Any cancellation or nonrenewal notice to the insured shall be accompanied by a conspicuous statement that the insured has a right of appeal as provided in subsection (16).

(15) COMMISSION. Commission to the licensed agent designated by the applicant shall be $125.00 for each new or renewal policy issued to medical or osteopathic physicians; $15.00 for each new or renewal policy issued to nurse anesthetists; $40 for each new or renewal policy issued to podiatrists; and 5% of the annual premium for each new or renewal policy issued to operating cooperative sickness care plans, or to teaching facilities, or to hospitals, or to health care facilities owned and operated by a political subdivision of the state of Wisconsin, not to exceed $2,500.00 per policy period. The agent need not be licensed with the servicing company.

(16) RIGHT OF APPEAL. Any affected person may appeal to the board of governors within 30 days after notice of any final ruling, action or decision of the Plan. Decisions of the board of governors may be further appealed in accordance with ch. 227, Stats.

(17) REVIEW BY COMMISSIONER. The board of governors shall report to the commissioner the name of any member or agent which fails to comply with the provisions of the Plan or with any rules prescribed thereunder by the board of governors or to pay within 30 days any assessment levied.

(18) INDEMNIFICATION. Each person serving on the board of governors or any subcommittee thereof, each member of the Plan, and the manager and each officer and employe of the Plan shall be indemnified by the Plan against all cost, settlement, judgment, and expense actually and necessarily incurred by him or it in connection with the defense of any action, suit, or proceeding in which he or it is made a party by reason of his or its being or having been a member of the board of governors, or a member or manager or officer or employe of the Plan except in relation to matters as to which he or it has been judged in such action, suit, or proceeding to be liable by reason of willful or criminal misconduct in the performance of his or its duties as a member of such board of governors, or a member or manager or officer or employe of the Plan. This indemnification shall not apply to any loss, cost, or expense on insurance policy claims under the Plan. Indemnification hereunder shall not be exclusive of other rights to which the member, manager, officer, or employe may be entitled as a matter of law.

History: Emerg. cr. eff. 3-20-75; cr. Register, June, 1975, No. 234, eff. 7-1-75; emerg. am. eff. 7-28-75; emerg. r. and recr. eff. 11-1-75; r. and recr. Register, January, 1976, No. 241, eff. 2-1-76; am. (1) (b), (2), (4) (c), and (5) (a), Register, May, 1976, No. 245, eff. 6-1-76; emerg. am. (4) (b), eff. 6-22-76; am. (1) (b), (2), (4) (b) and (c) and (5) (a), Register, September, 1976, No. 249, eff. 10-1-76; am. (1) (b), (2), (4) (c), (5) (a), (5) (f), (10) (a) and (15), cr. (4) (h), Register, May, 1977, No. 257, eff. 6-1-77; am. (1) (b), (2), (4) (c), (5) (a), (10) (a) and (15), Register, September, 1977, No. 261, eff. 10-1-77; am. (1) (b), (2), (4) (b) and (c), (5) (a) and (f), and (15), Register, May, 1978, No. 269, eff. 6-1-78; am. (7) (b) 1.a., Register, March, 1979, No. 279, eff. 4-1-79; renum. from Ins 3.35, am. (1) (b), (2), (5) (a) and (10) (a), Register, July, 1979, No. 283, eff. 8-1-79.

Ins 17.26 Future medical expense funds. (1) PURPOSE. This rule is intended to implement the provisions of s. 655.015, Stats.

(2) SCOPE. This rule shall apply to all insurers, organizations and persons subject to ch. 655, Stats.