



**United States
Office of Personnel Management
Retirement and Insurance Service**

Benefits Administration Letter

Number: 97-410

Date: November 7, 1997

**Subject: 1997 Federal Employees Health Benefits (FEHB) Program Open Season:
Health Fairs**

As you know, we have long encouraged agencies to hold open season health fairs to permit representatives of FEHB carriers to address groups of employees on their plans' benefits, methods of obtaining services, and similar matters.

Recently, a number of organizations have become involved in assessing health plan performance. These include organizations such as the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA) and the Foundation for Accountability (FACCT), as well as various State agencies established to help their citizens select health insurance plans.

We believe the qualitative analyses of health plans performed by these organizations can be of great help in enabling Federal employees to choose high quality health plan coverage. Accordingly, we encourage you to make access at open season health fairs available to recognized leaders in the health plan evaluation field who wish to participate in the health fairs.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Abby L. Block".

Abby L. Block, Chief
Insurance Policy
and Information Division

**Civil Service
Retirement
System**

**Federal Employees
Group Life
Insurance**

**Federal Employees
Health Benefits
Program**

**Federal Employees
Retirement
System**