



***Retirement and Insurance Service
Benefits Administration Letter***

Number: 00-222

Date: November 22, 2000

Subject: Federal Employees Health Benefits (FEHB) Program: Foundation Health Plan -Termination of Enrollment Code 5D

Foundation Health Plan, in the state of Florida, is terminating enrollment code 5D effective December 31, 2000. Code 5D consists of the following counties: Brevard, Hillsborough, Martin, Okeechobee, Orange, Osceola, Pasco, Pinellas, St. Lucie and Seminole.

All enrollees in code 5D **must change** their enrollment to another participating plan during this open season, November 13, 2000 – December 11, 2000, in order to continue to receive benefits under the FEHB Program in 2001. **The effective date of the new coverage will be the first day of the first pay period which begins on or after January 1, 2001.**

Since the 2001 FEHB Guides have already been printed this plan code appears in the Guides. Please **do not** allow employees to newly enroll in this code.

A special notice was sent to enrollees advising them to make a change to a new plan. We have attached a copy of that letter for your information.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Attachment

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*

TO FEDERAL ENROLLEES OF

FOUNDATION HEALTH, A FLORIDA HEALTH PLAN

Foundation Health Plan (enrollment codes 5D1 and 5D2) has eliminated the 5D rating area and Brevard, Hillsborough, Martin, Okeechobee, Orange, Osceola, Pasco, Pinellas, St. Lucie, and Seminole counties will not be offered through the Federal Employees Health Benefits (FEHB) Program in 2001:

Transitional Care Under the Patients' Bill of Rights

This Plan will stop participating in the above mentioned service area in the FEHB Program effective December 31, 2000. If you have read about the Patients' Bill of Rights, you may know that enrollees under the FEHB Program who are seeing a specialist for a chronic or disabling condition or who are in the second or third trimester of a pregnancy have a right of up to 90 days of continued treatment (or treatment through the end of post-partum care) following notice that a plan is leaving the FEHB Program.

To continue to receive benefits under the FEHB Program, you must transfer to another participating health plan during the upcoming Open Season, November 13, 2000 through December 11, 2000.

If you are an employee, you should contact your personnel office and enroll in a new health plan no later than December 11, 2000. **If you do not enroll by that date, you will not have any health benefits coverage for 2001.** The effective date of the new coverage will generally be the first day of the first pay period beginning on or after January 1, 2001. The new premium will be effective the first full pay period in 2001. For Postal employees the date a premium change is effective will usually be January 13, 2001, and for non-Postal employees the date will usually be January 14, 2001.

If you are retired, your retirement system will send you a package of Open Season material to help you select a different health plan. This package will contain information on requesting brochures for those plans in which you are interested and also on changing your enrollment to a new health plan. **You must select a new health plan during the Open Season. If your selection is not received by the end of Open Season, current regulations provide that you will be deemed to have elected Standard Option coverage under the government-wide Blue Cross and Blue Shield Service Benefit Plan. All annuitant changes will become effective January 1, 2001.**

If you are a Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS) or Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS) retiree and need additional information or if you did not receive an open season package, you should call Open Season Express at 1-800-332-9798 or access Open Season Online at <http://www.opm.gov/retire/fehb>. For the hearing impaired, the Retirement Information Office has a toll-free TDD number you may use for assistance (1-800/878-5707). If you do not have a telephone, you can write to the Open Season Processing Center at P.O. Box 4198, Iowa City, IA 52244-4198. Please include your annuity claim number in any correspondence you send to the Open Season Processing Center. ***If you are a retiree of another Federal retirement system, you must contact that system for assistance.***

Please remember you must choose a new health plan during the 2000 Open Season. Employees must submit a completed enrollment form no later than December 11, 2000. **If you are an employee and you do not return an enrollment form, you will not have health benefits coverage for 2001.** CSRS and FERS retirees should call Open Season Express at 1-800-332-9798 to make their Open Season enrollment changes.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.