



**Retirement and Insurance Service  
Benefits Administration Letter**

Number: 00-402

Date: July 28, 2000

**Subject: 2000 Federal Employees Health Benefits (FEHB) Program Open Season:  
Introduction**

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**DATES**

The 2000 FEHB Program open season will be held from November 13, 2000 through December 11, 2000.

**BALs**

As we proceed with our preparation for the 2000 open season, we will issue a series of Benefits Administration Letters (BAL) to give you information about ordering open season materials, significant FEHB plan changes for 2001, suggested open season notices for your employees, and other useful information that will enable you conduct a successful open season at your agency.

**FEHB GUIDES**

As announced in BAL 00-401, there will be a change in the quantity of RI 70-1, the FEHB Guide used by most employees, and RI 70-8, the FEHB Guide used by most temporary employees, for the 2000 open season. An amount equal to 25% of an agency's population will be shipped, instead of 50%.

**AUDIO CASSETTES**

OPM will not be involved in the ordering of brochure audiocassette tapes for the visually impaired. Agencies must order these tapes directly from the open season fee-for-service plans. We will include a list of plan contacts from whom you may order the tapes when we send you the BAL on ordering and distribution.

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*Civil Service  
Retirement  
System*

*Federal Employees  
Group Life  
Insurance*

*Federal Employees  
Health Benefits  
Program*

*Federal Employees  
Retirement  
System*

## **OPM WEB SITE**

All 2001 FEHB Guides, health plan brochures, and the news release announcing the 2001 premium rates will be available on the OPM web site at [www.opm.gov/insure/health](http://www.opm.gov/insure/health).

The Guides and brochures will be available in PDF format for downloading and printing, as well as text version suitable for the visually impaired.

Our newly updated web site will contain a version of the FEHB Guide designed specifically for the electronic environment. It will contain links from the plans' names to the plans' brochures in both PDF and text formats. It will also contain links from the FEHB Guides and the brochures to plan web sites for additional information about the plans, as well as links to other related web sites.

The web site also offers information about Mental Health and Substance Abuse Parity for 2001 as well as the new Premium Conversion to be implemented in October of 2000.

## **CONTACTING US**

Our Internet email will enable us to answer agencies' open season questions quickly and efficiently. If you have a question about an open season BAL, or any other questions about open season, just direct your question to [feh@opm.gov](mailto:feh@opm.gov).



Abby L. Block, Chief  
Insurance Policy  
And Information Division