



United States
Office of Personnel Management
Retirement and Insurance Service

Benefits Administration Letter

Number: 98-401

Date: January 14, 1998

Subject: 1997 Federal Employees Health Benefits (FEHB) Program Open Season: Special Belated Open Season Change Opportunity for Certain Enrollees of the Washington, DC, Area Kaiser Permanente Plan

In February 1997, the Washington, DC, area Kaiser Permanente Plan (Code E3) purchased the Washington, DC, area Humana Group Health Plan (Code 50). To minimize confusion to individuals enrolled in the Humana Plan, they kept their enrollment code (50) and they were permitted to continue to get care from Humana's network of health care providers throughout 1997.

Beginning in 1998, however, the old Humana code and the old Humana provider network no longer exist. During the 1997 open season, enrollees in Code 50 were advised that they would automatically be switched to Kaiser Code E3 unless they changed to another plan. Unfortunately, approximately 800 of the individuals who elected to remain with Kaiser have failed to select providers from the Kaiser Medical Centers, leading us to suspect that they mistakenly believe they can continue to use their former Humana providers.

In order to insure that any medical care these individuals may be getting is not disrupted, we have decided to allow them a special belated open season change opportunity. Kaiser will send a letter on Office of Personnel Management letterhead to each enrollee that automatically transferred to Code E3, and that should have chosen a Kaiser provider but did not, advising them that they have 30 days from the date of the letter to choose another plan, with which their provider participates, if they wish to do so. The letter also advises enrollees that a change in plans will be retroactive to the first pay period beginning in 1998, and that they must bring a copy of the letter to their personnel office.

We will appreciate your cooperation in this matter and apologize for any inconvenience it may cause you.

Abby L. Block, Chief
Insurance Policy
and Information Division

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