

Office of Personnel Management

§ 890.1047

(c) *Contested debarments and requests for reducing the period of debarment.* If a provider files a contest within the 30-day notice period, the proposed debarment shall not go into effect until the debarring official issues a final written decision, unless the health or safety of covered individuals or the integrity of the FEHBP requires the debarment to be effective while the contest is pending.

§ 890.1043 Effect of debarment on a provider.

(a) *FEHBP payments prohibited.* A debarred provider is not eligible to receive payment, directly or indirectly, from FEHBP funds for items or services furnished to a covered individual on or after the effective date of the debarment. Also, a provider shall not accept an assignment of a claim for items or services furnished to a covered individual during the period of debarment. These restrictions shall remain in effect until the provider is reinstated by OPM.

(b) *Governmentwide effect.* Debarment precludes a provider from participating in all other Federal agencies' procurement and nonprocurement programs and activities, as required by section 2455 of the Federal Acquisition Streamlining Act of 1994 (Pub. L. 103–355). Other agencies may grant a waiver or exception under their own regulations, to permit a provider to participate in their programs, notwithstanding the OPM debarment.

(c) *Civil or criminal liability.* A provider may be subject to civil monetary penalties under this subpart or criminal liability under other Federal statutes for knowingly filing claims, causing claims to be filed, or accepting payment from FEHBP carriers for items or services furnished to a covered individual during a period of debarment.

NOTIFYING OUTSIDE PARTIES ABOUT DEBARMENT AND SUSPENSION ACTIONS

§ 890.1044 Entities notified of OPM-issued debarments and suspensions.

When OPM debars or suspends a provider under this subpart, OPM shall notify:

- (a) All FEHBP carriers;

(b) The General Services Administration, for publication in the comprehensive Governmentwide list of Federal agency exclusions;

(c) Other Federal agencies that administer health care or health benefits programs; and

(d) State and local agencies, authorities, boards, or other organizations with health care licensing or certification responsibilities.

§ 890.1045 Informing persons covered by FEHBP about debarment or suspension of their provider.

FEHBP carriers are required to notify covered individuals who have obtained items or services from a debarred or suspended provider within one year of the date of the debarment or suspension of:

(a) The existence of the provider's debarment or suspension;

(b) The minimum period remaining in the provider's period of debarment; and

(c) The requirement that OPM terminate the debarment or suspension before FEHBP funds can be paid for items or services the provider furnishes to covered individuals.

EXCEPTIONS TO THE EFFECT OF DEBARMENTS

§ 890.1046 Effect of debarment or suspension on payments for services furnished in emergency situations.

A debarred or suspended health care provider may receive FEHBP funds paid for items or services furnished on an emergency basis if the FEHBP carrier serving the covered individual determines that:

(a) The provider's treatment was essential to the health and safety of the covered individual; and

(b) No other source of equivalent treatment was reasonably available.

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§ 890.1047 Special rules for institutional providers.

(a) *Covered individual admitted before debarment or suspension.* If a covered