



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

Number: 01-325

Date: October 12, 2001

Subject: FEHB OPEN SEASON INFORMATION

The official 2002 official Federal Employees Health Benefits Program (FEHB) employee withholding and agency contribution rates will be provided to agency payroll offices during the latter part of October in both hard-copy and electronic form. In the meantime, we want to make sure that agency payroll offices are aware of important information regarding the upcoming open season, which runs from November 12 to December 10, 2001. Thus, we refer them to Benefits Administration Letter (BAL) No. 01-402 -- *Significant Plan Changes*. BAL 01-402 can be downloaded from <http://www.opm.gov/asd/htm/2001/01-402.htm>.

Although agency payroll office staff should be aware of all of the information in the exhibits to BAL 01-402, we want to highlight a few that will require specific action on their parts:

Section 2: Plans Reducing Their Service Areas by Terminating an Enrollment Code

Enrollees in these Aetna plans will need to elect new plans during the open season. No new enrollments for these plans may be accepted.

Sections 10 and 11: Code and Plan Mergers

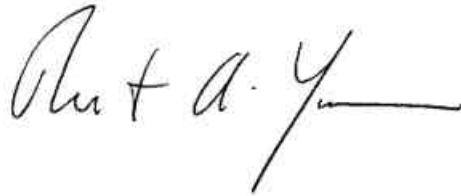
These sections list several enrollment codes that will be discontinued in 2002 because of plan and code mergers (for example, H5, 7X, and K6). Agency payroll offices must transfer enrollees in the discontinued codes to the successor code, unless the enrollee chooses a different plan during the open season. No new enrollments for the discontinued enrollment codes may be accepted.

<i>Civil Service Retirement System</i>	<i>Federal Employees' Group Life Insurance Program</i>	<i>Federal Employees Health Benefits Program</i>	<i>Federal Employees Retirement System</i>	<i>Long Term Care Insurance Program</i>
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Section 12: Plans Merging Options

The Blue Cross/Blue Shield (BC/BS) Service Benefit Plan will be merging its High Option Plan (enrollment codes 101 and 102) and its Standard Option Plan (enrollment codes 104 and 105). Enrollees in codes 101 and 102 must be automatically transferred to codes 104 and 105, unless they choose a different plan during the open season. There will be a new BC/BS Service Benefit Plan “Basic Option,” with enrollment codes 111 and 112; it will be available for initial enrollment during the upcoming open season.

If you have any questions regarding this information, we would prefer that you email us at finance@opm.gov, so that we have a record of our communication. You may also phone us on (202) 606-0606.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert A. Yuran". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Robert A. Yuran, Chief
Financial Policy Staff

Attachment