

Office of Personnel Management
Retirement and Insurance Group



1920



1954



1959



1986

Benefits Administration Letter

Number: 96-401

Date: July 15, 1996

SUBJECT: FEHB Open Season - Introduction

DATES

Dates

The 1996 Federal Employees Health Benefits (FEHB) open season will be held from November 11 through December 9.

HOTLINE

Number

The number for the open season Hotline is 202-606-0777, ext. 952.

Purpose

The Hotline enables us to provide agencies with information regarding open season efficiently and quickly.

How It Works

The Hotline contains a recorded message with information about the 1996 open season. As new information becomes available, the recording is updated.

At the end of the recording, you may leave a message if you have a question about open season.

Users

The Hotline is to be used only by **agency headquarters Insurance Officers**.

Employees should direct their questions to their personnel office.

Personnel offices should direct their questions to their headquarters Insurance Officer.

The Hotline cannot be used by or on behalf of annuitants.

CHANGES AFFECTING THE 1996 OPEN SEASON

FEHB Guides

Except as noted below, there will be no changes in quantity of RI 70-1, the FEHB Guide used by most employees, for the 1996 open season. The same quantity that was printed for the 1995 open season, i.e., an amount equal to 60% of an agency's population, will be printed for this year's open season. However, RI 70-7, the Guide for overseas employees, will not be printed for 1996. Instead, overseas employees will be given RI 70-1. Consequently, agencies with employees overseas must include their overseas employees in their population count for our calculation of the quantity to be printed.

Audio Cassettes

OPM will not be involved in the ordering of audio cassette tapes for the visually impaired. Agencies must order these tapes directly from the open fee-for-service plans. When we send the Benefits Administration Letter on ordering and distribution (this should be issued in late August), we will send the list of plan contacts for ordering the tapes.

OPM Mainstreet

All versions of the FEHB Guide, and the Press Release announcing the 1997 rates, will be uploaded to OPM Mainstreet. We will also upload the brochure for any health plan that submits its brochure text in an acceptable format. About 100 plans submitted their 1996 brochures to OPM Mainstreet, and we expect more to do so for 1997.



Abby L. Block, Chief
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and Information Division