

Office of Personnel Management
Retirement and Insurance Service



1920



1954



1959



1986

Benefits Administration Letter

Number: 97-203

Date: March 5, 1997

**SUBJECT: Special Enrollment Period for Enrollees in Prudential Healthcare
HMO - MA**

This is to advise you of a special enrollment period running from April 1 to April 30, 1997, that OPM has authorized for enrollees in Prudential Healthcare HMO - Massachusetts (Carrier Code 6M), which is withdrawing from the FEHB Program effective April 30, 1997.

Attached for your information is a notice OPM sent to personnel offices of Federal employees who live in the affected areas. This notice explains the circumstances where we have authorized an enrollment opportunity for these employees. Employees who fail to timely elect another health plan will be without an FEHB health plan. However, we encourage agencies to use their authority to accept late elections when submitted through no fault of the employee.

Our source for personnel office addresses is the Central Personnel Data File (CPDF). If your agency is not included in the CPDF, we cannot identify your field installations. Therefore, we request that you send a copy of the attachment to each of your field installations that have employees in the affected counties. The counties are listed in the attachment.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Abby L. Block".

Abby L. Block, Chief
Insurance Policy
and Information Division

Attachment



United States
**Office of
Personnel Management**

Washington, D.C. 20415

In Reply Refer To:

Your Reference:

MEMORANDUM FOR AGENCY HEADS AND PERSONNEL OFFICERS IN
MASSACHUSETTS

FROM: ABBY L. BLOCK, CHIEF
INSURANCE POLICY AND
INFORMATION DIVISION

Subject: Special Enrollment Period for Prudential Healthcare HMO - MA
Enrollees

Introduction

This is to inform you that OPM is authorizing a special enrollment opportunity for employees enrolled in the Federal Employees Health Benefits (FEHB) plan, Prudential Healthcare HMO - MA. The plan, carrier code 6M, is withdrawing from the FEHB Program effective April 30, 1997. It serves employees in Massachusetts.

Effect on employees

Employees who fail to submit an Election of Health Benefits SF 2809 will no longer have health insurance through the Federal Employees Health Benefits (FEHB) Program

What can employees do?

Affected employees must select a new health plan during the special enrollment period if they wish to retain FEHB health benefits. The change will be effective the first payroll period after it is received but in no case later than April 30, 1997.

How will employees learn about this?

The plan is notifying the enrollees of the withdrawal and advising them to contact their personnel office.

The agency is not expected to notify enrollees individually, but we request that you display the attached announcement in areas where employees are likely to see it. In addition, personnel offices must advise enrollees who ask about this withdrawal and must accept SF 2809's from employees who are enrolled in the plan. Although employees are required to submit an SF 2809 no later than April 30, 1997, agencies may accept submissions that are late through no fault of the employee.

When can employees make this change?

Employees who want to change their enrollment may submit an SF 2809 to their employing office from April 1 through April 30, 1997.

Processing the SF 2809

Please note in the "Remarks" that this is a special open season change.

Attachment



United States
**Office of
Personnel Management**

Washington, D.C. 20415

Reference:

In Reply Refer To:

Your

ATTENTION:

**Employees enrolled in the
Prudential Healthcare HMO - MA health plan**

Prudential Healthcare HMO - MA (Carrier Code 6M) is withdrawing from the Federal Employees Health Benefits program effective April 30, 1997.

Employees who are enrolled in this plan must enroll in a new health plan by April 30, 1997 to retain FEHB coverage.

If you want to retain your health benefits, you must file a new Health Benefits Registration Form (SF 2809) with your employing office no later than April 30, 1997.

Please contact your personnel office as soon as possible to learn of your health benefits options and to get an SF 2809.