

For: FFAS Employees

2001 Federal Employees Health Benefits (FEHB) Open Season

Approved by: Deputy Administrator, Management



1 Overview

A

Purpose

This notice announces and provides guidance about the 2001 FEHB open season.

The 2001 FEHB open season will be held from November 12 through December 10, 2001, for eligible employees.

B

**National Office
Contacts**

National Office employees use the following table for additional information.

IF employee needs to...	THEN contact...
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • obtain SF-2809 • obtain a plan brochure 	HRD, Domestic Operations Branch (DOB), Services Group at 202-418-9135 or 202-418-9136 or in Room 6957-South. Note: Hard copy brochures are not currently available. Headquarters employees will be notified by e-mail once brochures are received.
verify enrollment	HRD, DOB, Services Group at 202-418-9135 or 202-418-9136.
receive policy information	HRD, Performance Management Benefits and Awards Branch (PMBAB) at 202-418-9039 or 202-418-9021, or TDD 202-418-9116.
access Employee Express	Employee Express at 912-757-3086 or 1-800-827-6291 or on the internet at: www.employeeexpress.gov .

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Disposal Date

February 1, 2002

Distribution

All FAS, FSA, and RMA employees; State Offices relay to County Offices

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1 Overview (Continued)

**C
Field Office
Contacts**

Field Office employees use the following table for additional information.

IF employee is located in...	THEN contact...
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• KCFO, KC-ITSDO, KC-ITSTO, KCAO, KCCO• Research and Development Division, RMA	KCAO, PD, Processing Section at 816-926-6225 or TDD 816-926-7440
FAS Overseas Employees	HRD, PMBAB:
RMA Regional Offices and Compliance Field Offices	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Susan Brown at 202-418-9039• Darla Hensley at 202-418-9021• TDD 202-418-9116.
State and County Office	State Office, Administrative Division
APFO	KCAO, PD

**D
OMB
Notification**

Information provided by enrolling in the FEHB Program may also be used for computer matching with Federal, State, or local agencies' files to determine whether employee qualifies for benefits, payments, or eligibility in the FEHB program, Medicare, or other Government benefit programs.

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2 Eligibility and Effective Dates

A

Actions During Open Season

Eligible employees may take the following actions during FEHB open season:

- unregistered employees may enroll
- enrollee may do any of the following:
 - change from 1 plan or option to another
 - change from self only to self and family
 - elect and waive FEHB-Premium Conversion
 - cancel enrollment
 - change from family to self only

Note: Refer to Notice PM-2201 for more information on FEHB Premium Conversion.

- make any combination of these changes.
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B

Temporary Continuation of Coverage (TCC)

Employees who leave Federal employment may be eligible for TCC, unless they are separated for gross misconduct.

TCC is available for up to 18 months for separated employees, and up to 36 months for dependents who lose eligibility as a family member under the employee's enrollment. This includes spouses who lose coverage because of divorce and children who lose coverage because they marry or reach age 22.

TCC enrollees must pay the total plan premium, without a government contribution, plus a 2 percent charge for administrative expenses. There are specific timeframes in which the employees or their dependent must enroll in TCC. For additional information, contact your employing office.

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2 Eligibility and Effective Dates (Continued)

**C
Effective Dates of
Enrollments and
Changes**

Use the following table for additional information.

IF there is a...	THEN the effective date is...
premium rate change	January 13, 2002
a change in enrollment	January 13, 2002
a new enrollment	January 13, 2002, if the employee is in a pay status for any part of the previous pay period. Otherwise, enrollment will become effective in the pay period after the first pay period in a pay status.

3 2002 FEHB Guide and Individual Plan Brochures

**A
Guide to FEHB
Plans for Federal
Civilian
Employees**

A 2002 FEHB Guide providing features of each plan, including the enrollee's share of the biweekly premium rates, will be available for employees to review through their employing office.

The 2002 FEHB Guide will be issued as follows:

- RI-70-1 for nontemporary employees
 - RI-70-8 for temporary employees
 - RI-70-10 for visually impaired employees.
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**B
Supervisor
Action**

Supervisors shall provide RI-70-1 or RI-70-8 to employees who are away from the work site in a nonpay or nonduty status.

Continued on the next page

3 2002 FEHB Guide and Individual Plan Brochures

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Individual Plan Brochures

After examining the FEHB Guide, employees interested in enrolling or changing plans should review the individual plan brochures for a complete description of benefits to make an informed decision. Because of the limited quantity of plan brochures received, employees who want to review a specific plan brochure should do either of the following:

- obtain brochures on the internet at: www.opm.gov/insure/health

Notes: Employees currently enrolled in a health plan will receive a 2002 benefit plan brochure directly from their health plan.

Employees who elect a new health insurance plan will receive a personal copy from the new insurance carrier.

- contact their employing office to obtain a copy of the plan brochure if unable to obtain a plan brochure on the internet.

Note: After reviewing the plan brochure, return it to the employing office.

D

Changes to Blue Cross/Blue Shield (BC/BS)

Enrollees in BC/BS high option will automatically be transferred to BC/BS standard option by NFC. Employees who are satisfied with BC/BS standard option and who do not wish to change their BC/BS enrollment, **do not** need to complete a new SF-2809.

E

OPM Web Site

The 2002 FEHB Guide (RI-70-1) and all health plan brochures are available on OPM's Web site at: www.opm.gov/insure/health. The 2002 FEHB Guide and each brochure are available for downloading and printing.

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4 Employee Action

A

Action Required by Employees

Employees must take the following action.

Step	Action
1	Immediately review Exhibit 1 and determine whether to take any further action that will require completing SF-2809 this open season. Note: Exhibit 1 assists employees in identifying nonparticipating plans and other significant plan changes that may affect them. Employees should review Exhibit 1 to determine if they need to make a health benefits election or change this open season.
2	Obtain SF-2809 from the employing office to make any open season election or change.
3	Complete and return SF-2809 to the employing office before COB on December 10, 2001.

B

Enrollees Who Continue Their Current Enrollment

Employees who wish to continue their current enrollment **should take no action during this open season.** However, enrollees must enroll in a different plan to continue FEHB coverage in 2002, if their plan:

- will not be participating in the FEHB program after December 31, 2001
- dropped an enrollment area having a separate enrollment code.

Note: See Exhibit 1 for a list of plans and codes with significant changes or that are terminating.

Continued on the next page

4 Employee Action (Continued)

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Employee Express

FFAS employees (excluding overseas employees), may access Employee Express by touchtone telephone or the internet to make open season changes involving FEHB coverage. Transactions are made by the employee using their personal identification number (pin).

Access Employee Express using either of the following methods:

- by touchtone telephone at:
 - 912-757-3086 during work hours
 - 1-800-827-6291 after work hours
 - on the internet at www.employeeexpress.gov/.
-

D

Continuing FEHB Coverage After Retirement

To continue FEHB coverage after retirement, the employee must have been continuously enrolled, or covered as a family member, under the FEHB program for 1 of the following:

- the 5 years of service immediately preceding retirement
 - since first opportunity to enroll
 - during all service in which eligible to be enrolled.
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Significant FEHB Plan Changes for 2002

SECTION 1		
PLANS DROPPING OUT OF FEHB FOR 2002		
Employees in these plans who do not change health plans during open season will not have health benefits for 2002.		
State	Plan	Code
AZ	Cigna Health Care	16
CA	Maxicare Southern California	CM
CA	National HMO Health Plan	MN
DC	George Wash. Univ. Health Plan	E5
DC	Free State Health Plan	LD
FL	Beacon Health Plans	4K
FL	Prudential Health Plan	EH
FL	Prudential Health Plan	EC
IL	Prudential Health Plan	VZ
KY	Bluegrass Family Health	2B, BD, BH
MD	Free State Health Plan	LD
MD	George Wash. Univ. Health Plan	E5
MO	Prudential Health Plan	VZ
NC	QualChoice of North Carolina	7Q
NC	United Health Plan	XM
NC	Doctors Health Plan	6D
NJ	Cigna Health Care of NJ	P4
NJ	Physicians Health Services of NJ	2F
NY	Healthfirst New York	7N
NY	Cigna Health Care of NY	HU
OH	Vantage Health Plan	6A
OH	Community Health Plan	MG
OK	Prudential Health Plan	RR, RS
OK	Healthcare Oklohoma	6W
PA	Geisinger Health Plan	N9
SC	Doctors Health Plan	6D
TN	Prudential Health Plan	UA
TX	Texas Health Choice, L.C.	UK
VA	Cigna Health Care of VA	W2, W3
VA	George Wash. Univ. Health Plan	E5
WA	First Choice Health Plan	5G
WA	Premera Health Plan	8F
WI	Valley Health Plan	VH
WI	CompCare Blue	69, 6X
WV	Carelink Health Plan	4C
WV	Free State Health Plan	LD

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Significant FEHB Plan Changes for 2002 (Continued)

SECTION 2			
PLANS REDUCING THEIR SERVICE AREAS BY TERMINATING AN ENROLLMENT CODE			
Enrollees in these enrollment codes who do not change health plans during open season will not have health benefits for 2002.			
State	Plan	Code	
CA	Aetna	BU	
CO	Aetna	6F	
CT	Aetna	H1	
IL	Aetna	XC	
IL	Aetna	D4	
IN	Aetna	XC	
KS	Aetna	7K	
LA	Aetna	NG	
MA	Aetna	NE	
MI	Aetna	8Z	
MO	Aetna	D4	
MO	Aetna	7K	
NC	Aetna	3G	
OH	Aetna	7J	
OK	Aetna	8V	
PA	Aetna	KL	
RI	Aetna	5U	
TX	Aetna	5B	
TX	Aetna	8X	
VA	Aetna	XE	
SECTION 3			
PLANS REDUCING THEIR SERVICE AREAS WITHOUT TERMINATING AN ENROLLMENT CODE			
Enrollees in the area being dropped who do not change health plans during open season will have to travel to their plan's remaining service area to obtain medical care in order to receive full benefits from the plan in 2002.			
State	Plan	Code	Counties Dropped
AZ	Aetna	WQ	Graham, Yuma, Yavapai
			Apache, Cochise, Coconino, Gila, Graham, Greenlee, La Paz, Navajo, Santa Cruz, Yavapai, Yuma, Mohave, parts of Pinal
AZ	PacifiCare	A3	Certain towns in San Bernadino, Kerns, and Riverside counties
CA	Aetna	2X	

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Significant FEHB Plan Changes for 2002 (Continued)

CA	PacifiCare	CY	Butte, Mariposa, Merced, Napa, San Luis Obispo, Tulare, most of El Dorado
CA	Health Net	LB	Butte, Humboldt, Lake, Sutter, Yuba
CA	Blue Shield of CA	SJ	Napa, Shasta, San Luis Obispo
CA	Blue Cross - HMO	M5	Napa, Shasta, Tehama
DE	Aetna	SU	All of Delaware
GA	Aetna	2U	Burke, Columbia, Glascock, Lincoln, McDuffie, Richmond, Taliafero, Warren, Wilkes
IA	John Deere	YH	Allamakee, Blackhawk, Boone, Bremer, Buchanan, Butler, Chickasaw, Clarke, Dallas, Fayette, Floyd, Franklin, Grundy, Guthrie, Hardin, Howard, Madison, Marion, Polk, Story, Warren, Winneshiek
IL	PersonalCare HMO	GE	Clark, Crawford, Cumberland
IL	John Deere	YH	Dupage, Ford, Grundy, Iroquois, Kane, Kankakee, Kendall, Will
IN	Advantage Health Plan, Inc.	6Y	Northwestern Indiana
KY	Aetna	7L	Anderson, Bourbon, Clark, Fayette, Franklin, Harrison, Jessamine, Madison, Owen, Scott, Woodford, Henry
MI	M-Care	EG	Calhoun, Hillsdale
MS	Aetna	UB	All of Mississippi
NV	PacifiCare	K9	Carson City, Nye, Douglas, Esmeralda, Lyon, Mineral, Storey, Washoe
OK	PacifiCare	2N	Lincoln, Mayes, McClain, Okmulgee, Seminole
TX	PacifiCare	GF	Walker, Brazoria, Chambers, Liberty, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, Montgomery
WA	Aetna	8J	Columbia, Walla Walla
WI	Group Health Coop	WJ	Lafayette, Walworth

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Significant FEHB Plan Changes for 2002 (Continued)

SECTION 4			
PLANS SPLITTING A SERVICE AREA			
Enrollees in this plan under the 2001 enrollment code shown below should check their plan brochure to determine which 2002 code they should be under.			
State	Plan	Code (2001)	Code (2002)
LA	Coventry HealthCare Louisiana	JA	JA, BJ <i>(new code)</i>
<i>Note: Code BJ will also add the following counties for 2002: Assumption, East Feliciana, Iberville, Lafayette, Pointe Coupee, St. Helena, St. James, Vermillion, West Feliciana, Washington</i>			
SECTION 5			
NEW PLANS ENTERING THE PROGRAM FOR 2002			
State	Plan	Code	
LA	Vantage Health Plan	MV, AQ	
SD	Sioux Valley Health Plan	AU	
SD	Avera Health Plan	AV	
TN	HealthSpring	6K	
WY	WinHealth Partners	PV	
SECTION 6			
SERVICE AREA EXPANSIONS WITHOUT NEW ENROLLMENT CODES			
State	Plan	Code	Counties Added
DC, MD, VA	CareFirst BlueChoice	2G	Expands to cover the entire State of MD
IA	Coventry HealthCare of Iowa	SV	Benton, Linn, Woodbury
KS	Coventry HealthCare	HA	Atchison, Douglas, Franklin,
MI	The Wellness Plan	K3	Lapeer, St. Clair, Shiawassee
MN	Health Partners Health Plan	HQ	Houston, Winona; parts of Fillmore, Olmsted, Wabash
MO	Coventry HealthCare	HA	Benton, Buchanan, Caldwell, Daviess, DeKalb, Henry, Johnson, Lafayette, Ray
OK	PacifiCare	2N	Muskogee, Washington
UT	Altius Health Plans	9K	Cache, Carbon, Uintah, Washington
WA	Kitsap Physicians Service	VT	Grays Harbor, Pierce
WI	Group Health Cooperative	WJ	Columbia, Dodge, Iowa, Sauk

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Significant FEHB Plan Changes for 2002 (Continued)

SECTION 7			
PLAN NAME CHANGES			
State	Plan Name (Old)	Code	Plan Name (New)
AL	Health Partners of Alabama	DF	The Oath
AZ	Intergroup of Arizona, Inc.	A7	Health Net of Arizona, Inc.
CT	Physicians Health Services of CT	DP	Health Net, Inc.
DC	CapitalCare	2G	CareFirst BlueChoice, Inc.
FL	HIP of Florida	3N	Vista Healthplan (this change does not appear in the 2002 guide)
IN	Sagamore Advantage Health Plan	6Y	Advantage Health Plan, Inc.
KS	Kaiser Permanente	HA	Coventry Healthcare
LA	Maxicare Louisiana	JA, BJ	Coventry Healthcare of Louisiana
MD	CapitalCare	2G	CareFirst BlueChoice, Inc.
MS	Prudential Healthcare	UB	Aetna
MO	Kaiser Permanente	HA	Coventry Healthcare
MO	Humana Kansas City, Inc.	MS	Humana Health Plan, Inc.
NJ	PHS Health Plan (formerly Qualmed)	27	Health Net of Pennsylvania
PA	PHS Health Plan (formerly Qualmed)	2K, 27	Health Net of Pennsylvania
TN	Prudential Healthcare	UB	Aetna
VA	CapitalCare	2G	CareFirst BlueChoice, Inc.
WI	HealthPartners Health Plan	HQ	Health Partners Primary Clinic
Nationwide	Postmasters	36	PBP Health Plan
SECTION 8			
PLANS DROPPING A POINT OF SERVICE PRODUCT			
State	Plan	Code	
CT	BC/BS Service Benefit Plan	104, 105	
GA	BC/BS Service Benefit Plan	104, 105	
KS	BC/BS Service Benefit Plan	104, 105	
LA	BC/BS Service Benefit Plan	104, 105	
LA	Coventry Health Care	JA, BJ	See section 4 for other changes to this plan
MA	BC/BS Service Benefit Plan	104, 105	
MN	BC/BS Service Benefit Plan	104, 105	
MN	APWU	47	
ND	BC/BS Service Benefit Plan	104, 105	
NJ	BC/BS Service Benefit Plan	104, 105	
NY	BC/BS Service Benefit Plan	104, 105	
OK	BC/BS Service Benefit Plan	104, 105	
TX	APWU	47	

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Significant FEHB Plan Changes for 2002 (Continued)

SECTION 9				
PLANS ADDING A POINT OF SERVICE PRODUCT				
State	Plan	Code	Counties	
TX	Mercy Health Plans	HM	Duval, Jim Hogg, Webb, Zapata	
SECTION 10				
CODE MERGERS				
Enrollees in the codes for 2001 will be automatically transferred to the code for 2002 unless they choose a different plan during open season.				
State	Plan Name	Code (2001)	Code (2002)	
FL	Av-Med Health Plan	H5, JF HW, GP, EM	EM	
IL, IA, IN	Health Alliance HMO	FX, 7X	FX	
SECTION 11				
PLAN MERGERS				
Enrollees in plans that merge will be automatically transferred to the surviving plan unless they choose a different plan during open season.				
State	Merging Plans	Code	Surviving Plans	Code
MI	SelectCare HMO	K6, KP		
	Health Alliance	52	Health Alliance Plan	52
MO	Health Partners Midwest	RN		
	Group Health Plan	MM	Group Health Plan, Inc.	MM
MO, KS	Kaiser Permanente	HA	Coventry HealthCare of Kansas (Kansas City)	HA
KS	Coventry HealthCare of Kansas	7W	Coventry HealthCare of Kansas (Wichita)	7W
PA	Aetna	SU		
NJ	Aetna	P3	Aetna	P3
SECTION 12				
PLANS MERGING OPTIONS				
Enrollees in Blue Cross and Blue Shield's High Option will be automatically transferred to the Standard Option unless they choose a different plan during open season.				
State	Plan	Code	Surviving Plan Option	Code
Nationwide	BC/BS Service Benefit Plan - High Option	101, 102		
Nationwide	BC/BS Service Benefit Plan - Standard Option	104, 105	BC/BS Service Benefit Plan - Standard Option	104, 105

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Significant FEHB Plan Changes for 2002 (Continued)

SECTION 13				
PLANS DROPPING AN OPTION				
Enrollees in the Standard Option will be automatically transferred to the Plan's High Option unless they choose another plan for 2002.				
State	Plan	Code	Option Dropped	
NJ, PA	Aetna	P3	Standard Option (see sec. 9 for other changes to this plan)	
SECTION 14				
PLANS ADDING AN OPTION				
State	Plan	Code	Option Added	
CO	Rocky Mountain HMO	XJ	Standard Option	
Nationwide	BC/BS Service Benefit Plan	11	Basic Option	New Code