
FEHB Program Carrier Letter

Health Maintenance Organizations

U.S. Office of Personnel Management
Office of Insurance Programs

Letter No. 2001-16

Date: May 7, 2001

Fee-for-service [--] Experience-rated HMO [14] Community-rated HMO [15]

SUBJECT: Verification of accreditation status (for HMO plans)

For the purpose of preparing our enrollment guides and web site for next open season, we need to hear from you about your health plan's accreditation status with the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA), the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO), or the American Accreditation Healthcare Commission/URAC.

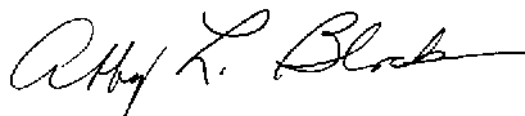
This year, our Guide to Federal Employees Health Benefits (FEHB) Plans will have a column showing the organizations with which your plan is accredited and the level of that accreditation. We will also list this information on our web site during the next open season.

Keep in mind that the organization and service area reviewed for accreditation must match the plan product and service area offered through our Program in order to be recognized in the Guide and on our web site. Once your level of accreditation has been established, you may display the NCQA, JCAHO, or URAC seal of accreditation on the front cover of your FEHB brochure, following the accepted protocol of these organizations.

If your accreditation status has not changed since July of last year, you do not need to send any documentation. If your accreditation status has changed or your plan has been newly accredited since July of 2000, please send a copy of your plan's formal accreditation certificate and indicate the date approval was received. We can make web-based changes on a recurring basis, but to show changes in the Guide we must hear from you by July 10, 2001. If you have any other status changes after this date, please send them so we can update our systems at the next available opportunity.

Please send the documentation by mail or FAX to your contract specialist through your usual channels. Also, please FAX a copy of the documentation to Mike Kaszynski in our Insurance Policy and Information Division at 202-606-0633.

Sincerely,



Abby L. Block
Assistant Director
for Insurance Programs