FEHB Program Carrier Letter All Carriers

Letter No. 2007 - 19

Date: May 30, 2007

Fee-for-service [15] Experience-rated HMO [13] Community-rated HMO [15]

SUBJECT: Civilian Board of Contract Appeals

The Contract Disputes Act (41 U.S.C. § 601-613) (the Act) allows Federal government contractors, including carriers participating in the Federal Employees Health Benefits (FEHB) Program, to appeal official decisions made by a contracting officer to an agency board of contract appeals. The Act authorized each agency to create their own board or, in the alternative, to designate another agency's board for this purpose. Previously, the Armed Services Board of Contract Appeals (ASBCA) has served as the agency board of contract appeals for the FEHB Program.

The National Defense Authorization Act of 2006 created the Civilian Board of Contract Appeals (CBCA) to consolidate several of the existing agency boards into one, and its authority extends to most civilian agencies including the Office of Personnel Management (OPM). The CBCA has now replaced the ASBCA as the venue for claims brought under the Act for the FEHB Program.

OPM is updating the Federal Employees Health Benefits Acquisition Regulations (48 C.F.R. § 1633.07) to reflect this change in the law. More information about the CBCA is available at their website: <u>http://www.cbca.gsa.gov/</u>.

If you have any questions regarding this issue, please contact Maggie Martel at 202-606-1772.

Sincerely,

Robert F. Danbeck Associate Director for Human Resources Products and Services