Announcement

If you make an open season election and have family members covered on your plan, you may be randomly selected for a family member eligibility review. If you are selected, [insert your employing office] will notify you in writing and request documentation to confirm that your family members are eligible for coverage. You must submit the <u>appropriate documentation</u> for each family member within 60 calendar days of the notice or the person(s) will be removed from coverage.

You are responsible for ensuring that only eligible family members are on your health plan. Verification reviews are a routine compliance check and, in accordance with 5 CFR 890.308(f), may be done at any time. They help control costs by identifying and removing ineligible family members from coverage and promote fairness by verifying that coverage is given only to those family members that are truly eligible.

Please work with [agency to add specific contact information here] or your FEHB Carrier to remove any family members who become ineligible. In most cases ineligible family members will not be removed automatically. Not verifying the eligibility of covered family members leads to the risk of fraud and improper payments, and ultimately may result in higher premiums for the entire group. As a reminder, any intentionally false statement or willful misrepresentation, such as including an ineligible family member on your health insurance coverage, is a violation of the law punishable by a fine of not more than \$10,000 or imprisonment of not more than 5 years, or both (18 USC 1001), and may be subject to investigation.

Eligible family members include:

- Your current spouse
- Your biological, legally adopted, step or foster* child under age 26
- Your disabled child aged 26 or older who is incapable of self-support because of a physical or mental disability that existed before their 26th birthday*

*Requires prior approval from [insert your employing office]

For more information about the eligibility rules, read <u>OPM's healthcare eligibility webpage</u> and the Family Member section of the <u>FEHB Handbook</u>. For more information about the review, visit [insert employing office website] or contact us at [insert your employing office contact information].