

FEHB Program Carrier Letter

All Carriers

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

Letter No. 2001- 38

Date: October 29, 2001

Fee-for-service [33] Experience-rated HMO [36] Community Rated [35]

SUBJECT: Guidance to Carriers on Services Related to Anthrax

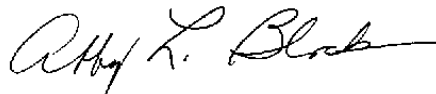
Thank you for the care and services you are already providing to your Federal and Postal members. Unfortunately, we all know some Federal and Postal employees were exposed to Anthrax or are at risk of having been exposed. This letter provides policy guidance to carriers on anthrax related care.

We believe it is appropriate and necessary for carriers to offer the maximum flexibility in providing health benefits coverage for anthrax related services. This policy applies to benefits for those people who are at the greatest potential risk as well as to those who believe they may have a risk of anthrax exposure. You should take immediate steps to provide coverage for any appropriate prescriptions, including prophylactic treatment, for anthrax. There may also be situations when providers contact you for pre-certification of patients to be hospitalized for initial treatment and monitoring for anthrax. These requests require expeditious processing to minimize stress as much as possible.

Some Federal employees have been advised by their employing agencies to consult a local Public Health Service or other medical facility or their health care provider. We expect that the Public Health Service will make arrangements for most individuals including referrals to inpatient facilities or emergency rooms. You should cover all appropriate medical services.

If you have any questions, please contact your OPM contract representative. I am counting on you, once again, to provide assistance to those most in need at this time.

Sincerely,



Abby L. Block
Assistant Director
for Insurance Programs