
FEHB Program Carrier Letter

All Carriers

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

Letter No. 2002- 18

Date: May 8, 2002

Fee-for-service [16] Experience-rated HMO [16] Community-rated HMO [15]

SUBJECT: Postponement of January 1 Effective Date for Open Season Elections

PURPOSE

This is to let you know that we have decided to postpone indefinitely publication of final FEHB regulations to change the effective date of open season elections to January 1.

BACKGROUND

On August 31, 1998, we published proposed FEHB regulations in the Federal Register (63 FR 46180) that would change the effective date of open season elections to January 1 of the next year. In Carrier Letter 2001-22 dated July 18, 2001, we stated our intent to publish final regulations that would have made all open season elections effective January 1, beginning with January 1, 2003. We had planned to require agencies to prorate FEHB premiums when January 1 is not at the beginning of a pay period.

We must again defer issuing the final regulations in light of the OPM E-Government Payroll Office Project to modernize HR/Payroll systems and processes across government.

CONCLUSION

Until further notice, **open season elections will continue to take effect on the first day of the first pay period beginning in January. New premiums will also begin on the first day of the first pay period in January**, as required by law.

We apologize for any inconvenience this postponement may cause you. If you have any questions about this matter, please contact Barbara Myers at (202) 606-0004 or bdmyers@opm.gov.

Sincerely,



Abby L. Block
Assistant Director
for Insurance Programs