
FEHB Program Carrier Letter

Carrier Letter

All Carriers

U.S. Office of Personnel Management
Healthcare and Insurance

Letter No. 2014-06

Date: March 25, 2014

Fee-for-service [5] Experience-rated HMO [5] Community-rated HMO [5]

Subject: Benefits Plus Testing Group

Background

In 1999, the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) created a Federal Employees Health Benefits Program (FEHB) data system called FEHB2000. Data in FEHB2000 is entered annually and on an ad hoc basis by OPM Contract Specialists. FEHB2000 houses our most frequently reviewed benefit data and is used to generate our plan comparison tools, plan information pages, and Guides to Federal Benefits.

New System

We are in the process of replacing FEHB2000 with a new system called Benefits Plus. Data in Benefits Plus will be entered directly by carriers with oversight by OPM Contract Specialists. Benefits Plus will be used in the benefits negotiation process and will ultimately funnel approved benefit data to the plan comparison tools, web pages, Guides to Federal Benefits and brochure creation tool. This will eliminate the need to input the same data in multiple systems, preventing keystroke errors and giving carriers greater control over the accuracy of the data displayed on OPM's website.

To facilitate an efficient and user-friendly interface, we are forming a Benefits Plus testing group, and are asking for volunteers. We anticipate holding our first meeting on April 15, 2014, and will continue to meet on a regular basis over the following three to four weeks. As future iterations are brought forth, we hope to go back to the original members for review and feedback. Continuity and commitment are important to ensure success of this testing group.

The details of how the group will operate and conduct its review will be addressed in the first meeting. The workgroup needs to reflect the wide variety of health plans that make up the FEHB Program. Therefore, we are looking for participation from at least one carrier per plan type (Fee-for-Service, Experience-rated HMO, Community-rated HMO, Consumer-Driven Health Plan, High Deductible Health Plan). While we hope for a good response, we may not be able to accommodate all plans that wish to participate.

If you have any questions, suggestions, or wish to volunteer for the workgroup, please contact Lionell Jones or Maria Bianchini. They can be reached at Lionell.Jones@opm.gov and Maria.Bianchini@opm.gov, respectively. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

John O'Brien
Director
Healthcare and Insurance