



**Retirement and Insurance Service  
Benefits Administration Letter**

Number: 00-218

Date: October 10, 2000

**Subject: Federal Employees Health Benefits (FEHB) Program: Opportunity for Enrollees of PacifiCare of Ohio, Inc., Enrollment Code R8, to Change Enrollment**

PacifiCare of Ohio, Inc., enrollment code R8, will no longer participate in the FEHB Program after December 31, 2000.

We are authorizing an opportunity for PacifiCare of Ohio enrollees to change their enrollment. The opportunity to change enrollment will begin immediately and continue through December 29, 2000. All enrollees **must change** their enrollment to another participating plan. You must ensure that enrollees do not enroll in plans that will not be offered in 2001. Please refer to Benefits Administration Letter (BAL) 00-404 for a list of these plans.

**The effective date of the new coverage will be the pay period beginning on December 31, 2000. Enrollees who do not change their enrollment by December 29, 2000, will not have benefits after December 31, 2000.**

Since this opportunity to change enrollment overlaps the regular open season, you must identify your employees enrolled in this plan, **to ensure these changes are not processed as a regular open season change resulting in a year 2001 effective date.**

Please note that the plan has sent notices to enrollees alerting them of this opportunity to change enrollment. We have attached a copy of that letter for your information.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Abby L. Block".

Abby L. Block, Chief  
Insurance Policy  
and Information Division

Attachment

*Civil Service  
Retirement  
System*

*Federal Employees  
Group Life  
Insurance*

*Federal Employees  
Health Benefits  
Program*

*Federal Employees  
Retirement  
System*

**October, 2000**

Dear Federal Employee or Retiree:

**This is to inform you that you need to choose a new health plan for 2001. The PacifiCare of Ohio plan (Enrollment Code R81 Self Only and R82 Self and Family) is terminating its Federal Employees Health Benefits (FEHB) Program contract and will not be offered to federal enrollees and retirees next year.**

**PacifiCare will continue to provide benefits until midnight December 31, 2000.**

To continue receiving health benefits coverage under the FEHB Program, you need to change to another health plan. **You can make that change during a special opportunity period between October 9 and December 29, 2000.**

**Employees:** Please contact your personnel office and enroll in a new health plan by no later than December 29, 2000. **The effective date of your new health plan will be December 31, 2000.** If you do not change your enrollment by that date, you will not have any health benefits coverage in 2001.

**Retirees:** Please contact your retirement system and request materials to help you select a different health plan. This information will tell you how to request health plan brochures and how to change your enrollment to a new health plan. You will need to select a new health plan during this special opportunity period. **If we do not receive your enrollment change by the December 29, 2000, your enrollment will be transferred to the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Service Benefit Plan. The effective date of your new health plan will be January 1, 2001.**

If you are a Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS) or Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS) retiree and need additional information, you should call the Retirement Information Office toll-free on 1-888-767-6738. If you have impaired hearing, call the Retirement Information Office toll-free TDD number at 1-800-878-5707. Please have your annuity claim number and your social security number available when you call. Please also include these numbers in any correspondence. Retirees of other Federal retirement systems should contact their specific retirement system for additional help.

If you have questions regarding your health care benefits, you may contact the PacifiCare Customer Service Department at 1-800-824-0428. Representatives are available Monday through Friday from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM EDT to answer any questions or concerns you may have.

Sincerely,



Thomas D. Anthony  
President and CEO