
FEHB Program Carrier Letter

All Carriers

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

Letter No. 2001-18

Date: May 22, 2001

Fee-for-service [13] Experience-rated HMO [16] Community-rated [17]

Subject: Contract Year 2002 Brochure Language and Format

Here are revisions to the brochure patterns for 2002, updated to reflect benefit changes, program changes, carrier comments, and perfecting editing. As you work with your OPM contract specialist on your brochure, be sure to include these revisions.

Benefit changes

1. **Speech therapies.** As stated in the Call Letter, please provide speech therapy in all situations where it is medically necessary. You may limit the benefit through day, dollar, or visit limits. You may not limit speech therapy to short-term therapy or exclude it because it may be needed long-term. In the brochure pattern, we moved speech therapy from rehabilitative therapies to its own gray band. Keep speech therapy with physical and occupational therapy only if you choose to apply the changes to physical and occupational therapies as well.
2. **Intestinal transplants.** After we had developed the Call Letter, we learned that intestinal transplants are no longer considered experimental. Therefore, if you do not now, beginning in 2002, please cover intestinal transplants (small intestine) and the small intestine with the liver or small intestine with multiple organs such as the liver, stomach, and pancreas. For background, please see the April 1 Press Release from HCFA's Public Affairs Office (<http://www.hcfa.gov/pubaffr.htm>). Coverage may be limited to reasonable established protocols or other conditions.
3. **Preventive screenings.**
 - Fee-for-service plans -- add chlamydial infection to your brochure's list of routine screenings in Preventive care, adult. HMO plans that do not now provide this screening must do so, although you need not specifically list it.
 - Remove age limit on the blood cholesterol screening.

To discuss any of these new requirements, call your OPM contract specialist.

Language changes

If you commented on the draft brochure, thank you. We updated and clarified text in several places. Please see Enclosure 2 for details.

Before you finalize your brochure

Carefully review the brochure pattern for your plan. You must create a version of your contract year 2002 brochure that incorporates your plan's benefits into the plain language pattern. Work with your contract specialist to make sure that your 2002 draft brochure benefits agree with your 2001 brochure, except for benefit changes and clarifications you describe on the brochure change page.

For general information about the plain language initiative, contact Agnes Kalland (amkallan@opm.gov). To discuss your brochure, call your OPM contract representative.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Abby L. Block". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Abby L. Block
Assistant Director
for Insurance Programs

Enclosures

FFS 1 – FFS pattern
FFS 2 – FFS edit list
HMO 1 – HMO pattern
HMO 2 – HMO edit list