



**U.S. OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT
OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL
OFFICE OF AUDITS**

Final Audit Report

**AUDIT OF THE FEDERAL EMPLOYEES HEALTH
BENEFITS PROGRAM OPERATIONS AT HUMANA
COVERAGEFIRST - CHICAGO**

Report Number 1C-MW-00-16-018

November 21, 2016

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Audit of the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program Operations at Humana CoverageFirst – Chicago

Report No. 1C-MW-00-16-018

November 21, 2016

Why Did We Conduct the Audit?

The primary objectives of the audit were to determine if Humana CoverageFirst – Chicago (Plan) developed the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program (FEHBP) premium rates using complete, accurate, and current data, and that the rates were equivalent to the Plan's Similarly-Sized Subscriber Groups, as provided in the Federal Employees Health Benefits Acquisition Regulation 1652.215-70(a). Additional tests were performed to determine whether the Plan was in compliance with the provisions of the laws and regulations governing the FEHBP.

What Did We Audit?

Under contract 2887, the Office of the Inspector General completed a performance audit of the FEHBP's rates offered for contract years 2010 through 2012. This desk audit was conducted from January 11, 2016 through January 22, 2016, at our offices in Jacksonville, Florida; Washington, D.C.; and Cranberry Township, Pennsylvania.



Michael R. Esser
*Assistant Inspector General
for Audits*

What Did We Find?

We determined that the FEHBP rates were developed by the Plan in accordance with applicable laws, regulations, and the U.S. Office of Personnel Management's Rate Instructions to Community-Rated Carriers for the years audited. Therefore, we did not issue a draft report and are not making any recommendations in this final report.

ABBREVIATIONS

FEHBAR	Federal Employees Health Benefits Acquisition Regulation
FEHBP	Federal Employees Health Benefits Program
OIG	Office of the Inspector General
OPM	U.S. Office of Personnel Management
Plan	Humana CoverageFirst – Chicago
SSSG	Similarly-Sized Subscriber Group
U.S.C.	United States Code

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I. BACKGROUND

This final report details the audit results of the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program (FEHBP) operations at Humana CoverageFirst – Chicago (Plan). The desk audit covered contract years 2010 through 2012 and was conducted at our field offices in Jacksonville, Florida; Washington, D.C.; and Cranberry Township, Pennsylvania.

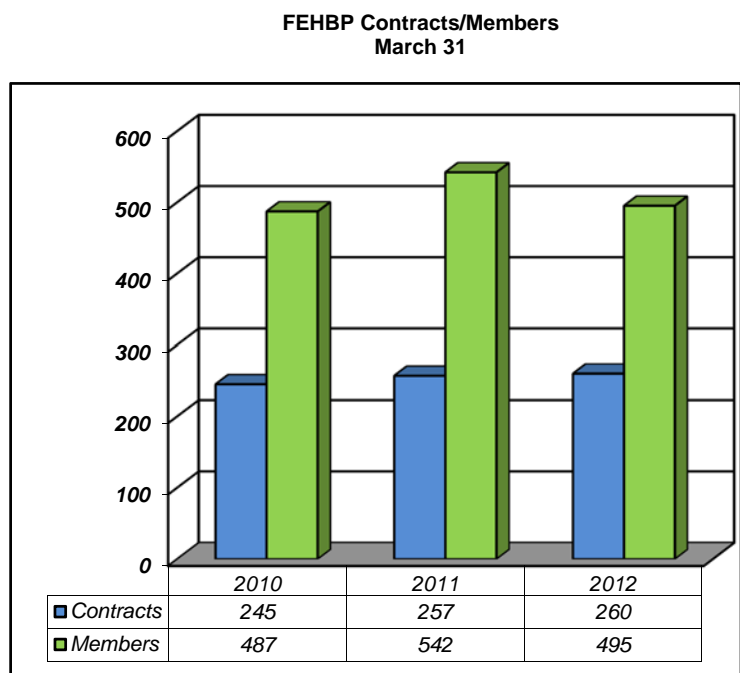
The audit was conducted pursuant to FEHBP contract CS 2887, 5 United States Code (U.S.C.) Chapter 89; and 5 Code of Federal Regulations Chapter 1, Part 890. The audit was performed by the U.S. Office of Personnel Management’s (OPM) Office of the Inspector General (OIG), as established by the Inspector General Act of 1978, as amended.

The FEHBP was established by the Federal Employees Health Benefits Act (Public Law 86-382), enacted on September 28, 1959. The FEHBP was created to provide health insurance benefits for Federal employees, annuitants, and dependents, and is administered by OPM’s Healthcare and Insurance Office. Health insurance coverage is provided through contracts with health insurance carriers that provide service benefits, indemnity benefits, or comprehensive medical services.

Community-rated carriers participating in the FEHBP are subject to various Federal, state and local laws, regulations, and ordinances. In addition, participation in the FEHBP subjects the carriers to the Federal Employees Health Benefits Act and implementing regulations promulgated by OPM.

The FEHBP should pay a premium rate that is equivalent to the best rate given to either of the two groups closest in subscriber size to the FEHBP. In contracting with community-rated carriers, OPM relies on carrier compliance with appropriate laws and regulations and, consequently, does not negotiate base rates. OPM negotiations relate primarily to the level of coverage and other unique features of the FEHBP.

The chart to the right shows the number of FEHBP contracts and members reported by the Plan as of March 31 for each contract year audited.



The Plan has participated in the FEHBP since 2004 and provides health benefits to FEHBP members in the Chicago, Illinois area. This was our first audit of the Plan.

The preliminary results of this audit were discussed with Plan officials at an exit conference. Since the audit concluded that the Plan's rating of the FEHBP was in accordance with applicable laws, regulations, and OPM Rate Instructions to Community-Rated Carriers (rate instructions), a draft report was not issued.

II. OBJECTIVES, SCOPE, AND METHODOLOGY

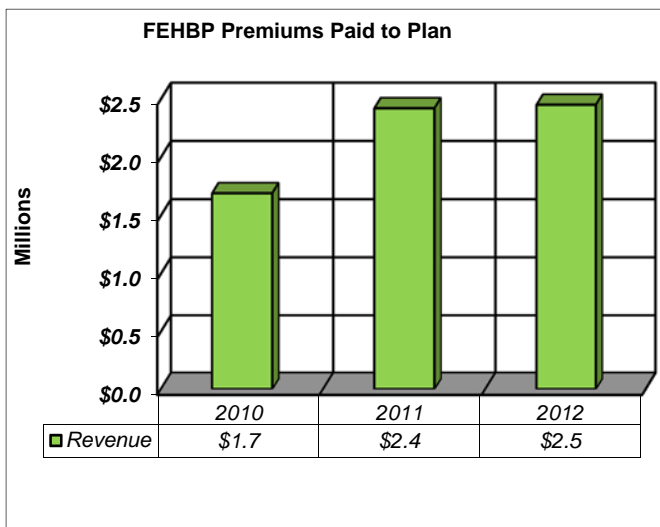
Objectives

The primary objectives of the audit were to determine if the FEHBP premium rates were developed using complete, accurate, and current data, and were equivalent to the Plan's Similarly-Sized Subscriber Groups (SSSGs), as provided in Federal Employees Health Benefits Acquisition Regulation (FEHBAR) 1652.215-70(a). Additional tests were performed to determine whether the Plan was in compliance with the provisions of the laws and regulations governing the FEHBP.

Scope

We conducted this performance audit in accordance with generally accepted government auditing standards. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain sufficient, appropriate evidence to provide a reasonable basis for our findings and conclusions based on our audit objectives. We believe that the evidence obtained provides a reasonable basis for our conclusions based on our audit objectives.

This performance audit covered contract years 2010 through 2012. For these years, the FEHBP paid approximately \$6.6 million in premiums to the Plan.



OIG audits of community-rated carriers are designed to test carrier compliance with the FEHBP contract, applicable laws and regulations, and the rate instructions. These audits are also designed to provide reasonable assurance of detecting errors, irregularities, and illegal acts.

We obtained an understanding of the Plan's internal control structure, but we did not use this information to determine the nature, timing, and extent of our audit procedures. However, the audit included such tests of the Plan's rating system and such other auditing procedures considered necessary under the circumstances. Our review of internal controls was limited to the procedures the Plan had in place to ensure that:

- The appropriate SSSGs were selected;

- the rates charged to the FEHBP were developed using complete, accurate and current data, and were equivalent to the best rate given to the SSSGs; and
- the loadings to the FEHBP rates were reasonable and equitable.

In conducting the audit, we relied to varying degrees on computer-generated billing, enrollment, and claims data provided by the Plan. We did not verify the reliability of the data generated by the various information systems involved. However, nothing came to our attention during our audit utilizing the computer-generated data to cause us to doubt its reliability. We believe that the available data was sufficient to achieve our audit objectives. Except as noted above, the audit was conducted in accordance with generally accepted government auditing standards, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States.

The audit fieldwork was performed in January 2016 at our field offices in Jacksonville, Florida; Washington, D.C.; and Cranberry Township, Pennsylvania.

Methodology

We examined the Plan's Federal rate submission and related documents as a basis for validating its Certificates of Accurate Pricing. In addition, we examined the rate development documentation and billings to other groups, such as the SSSGs, to determine if the FEHBP rates were reasonable and equitable. Finally, we used the contract, the FEHBAR, and the rate instructions to determine the propriety of the FEHBP premiums and the reasonableness and acceptability of the Plan's rating system.

To gain an understanding of the internal controls in the Plan's rating system, we reviewed the Plan's rating system policies and procedures, interviewed appropriate Plan officials, and performed other auditing procedures necessary to meet our audit objectives.

III. RESULTS OF THE AUDIT

Our audit showed that the Plan's rating of the FEHBP was in accordance with applicable laws, regulations, and the rate instructions for contract years 2010 through 2012. Consequently, the audit did not identify any questioned costs and no corrective action is necessary.

IV. MAJOR CONTRIBUTORS TO THIS REPORT

COMMUNITY-RATED AUDITS GROUP

██████████, Auditor-in-Charge

██████████, Senior Team Leader

██████████, Group Chief



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