



United States
Office of Personnel Management
Retirement and Insurance Service

Benefits Administration Letter

Number: 97-412

Date: December 9, 1997

**Subject: 1997 Federal Employees Health Benefits (FEHB) Program Open Season:
MVP Health Plan (New York) - Reduction of Service Area**

We have just been informed that MVP Health Plan, which serves New York State, is dropping Clinton, Essex, Franklin, and St. Lawrence counties from its service and enrollment area covered by enrollment code M9. The plan has taken steps to notify its enrollees of the reduction of its service/enrollment area, and it has also sent a letter about the subject to installations in the New York State areas affected. This means that employees who live or work in those counties may not newly enroll in code M9.

It also means that employees in those counties who are already enrolled in the plan should consider changing to another FEHB plan for 1998. Enrollees who do not choose a new plan for 1998 will have to travel to the plan's remaining service area to receive full coverage from the plan for medical care.

Although it may be too late for some employees to make a timely open season change by the time this year's open season ends (December 8), please remind your employing offices in the affected area that they have the authority to accept belated open season changes in individual cases. This is certainly an occasion that warrants the approval of belated changes, and we encourage you to urge your installations in the area to do so.

Please bring this matter to the attention of your local installations as quickly as possible.

Abby L. Block, Chief
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