



United States
Office of Personnel Management
Retirement and Insurance Service

Benefits Administration Letter

Number: 98-403

Date: February 11, 1998

Subject: Federal Employees Health Benefits (FEHB) Program: Special Enrollment Opportunity for Certain Members of United HealthCare of Illinois (Code FP)

Effective January 1, 1998, United HealthCare HMO (formerly Chicago HMO) merged with United HealthCare of Illinois (Code FP). Enrollees in the old plan (Code FJ) who did not choose a new plan during the last open season were automatically enrolled in United HealthCare of Illinois.

Members who were automatically transferred to United HealthCare of Illinois were required to select new primary care physicians. Unfortunately, it appears that some of these enrollees were not aware that only those United HealthCare physicians who participate in the United HealthCare Select network would be available to them. Since we are concerned that this confusion may disrupt the continuity of medical care, we are authorizing a special enrollment opportunity for former United HealthCare HMO members. This will give them an opportunity to locate an FEHB plan with which their physician participates. The plan will send a letter on Office of Personnel Management (OPM) stationery to these enrollees to advise them of this opportunity.

Former United HealthCare HMO members who wish to change plans have thirty days from the date of the letter to do so and must bring a copy of the OPM letter to their personnel office.

Employees have the option of making the change either retroactive to the first pay period of 1998, or prospective. People who wish to make a retroactive change should be cautioned that if United HealthCare of Illinois has already provided medical care to them, the Plan may ask them to refund the amount paid out in benefits.

We will appreciate your cooperation in this matter, and we apologize for any inconvenience it may cause you.

Abby L. Block, Chief
Insurance Policy
and Information Division

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