Subject: Effective Date of FEHB Open Season Elections Will Not Change in Calendar Year 2003

In Benefits Administration Letter (BAL) No. 01-321, we presented our plan to change the effective date of the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program (FEHB) open season elections from the first pay period beginning in January to January 1st. This is to inform agency payroll offices (APOs) that FEHB management has postponed this change until further notice. Agencies, therefore, will not need to modify their payroll systems to prorate FEHB withholdings and contributions for the pay period that includes January 1, 2003.

We will advise APOs as soon as a decision is made about when the effective date change will occur.

If you have any questions concerning this matter, please email us at Finance@opm.gov or call us at 202-606-4118.

Robert A. Yuran, Chief
Financial Policy Staff
Retirement and Insurance Service