SUBJECT: ADDITIONAL HEALTH BENEFITS OPEN SEASON INFORMATION

In Payroll Office Letter 00-28, we referred you to Benefits Administration Letter (BAL) 00-404 -- Significant Plan Changes. BAL 00-404 listed certain events that effect the 2001 Open Season. Since the issuance of BAL 00-404, additional Open Season events have been announced. We now refer you to BAL 00-406, -- Significant Plan Changes - Part 2. BAL 00-406 can be downloaded from our website at www.opm.gov/asd; if you are unable to do so, please call or email us and we will send you a copy.

We draw your special attention to the following information presented in BAL 00-406, which will require action on your part:

Table 1: Plans dropping out of the FEHB Program for 2001

Two additional plans will not participate in the FEHB Program as of January 1, 2001: PacifiCare of Ohio (R8) and the Family Health Plan in Wisconsin (WH). No new enrollments in these plans should be accepted and current enrollees must elect a new plan during the Open Season.

Table 3: Plan mergers

Two additional plans will merge into others for 2001 and lose their enrollment codes: Generations Family Health Plan (8B) and Prudential HealthCare (JB). You will need to transfer enrollees in these plans to Aetna U.S. HealthCare (JN) and Partners National Health Plan (EQ), respectively, unless they elect a different plan during the Open Season.
Table 5: Enrollment code changes

We will change the enrollment code of the Rocky Mountain HMO from “88” to “XJ” effective on January 1, 2001. Current enrollees must be transferred to “XJ”, unless they choose a different plan during Open Season.

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