



United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

California State Office
2800 Cottage Way, Suite W-1834
Sacramento, CA 95825
www.ca.blm.gov

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Information Bulletin No. **CA-2007-004**

To: All Employees
From: DSD, Division of Support Services
Subject: Health Benefits Open Season, November 13 - December 11, 2006

The Federal Employees Health Benefits (FEHB) open season will be held from **November 13 through December 11, 2006**. During open season, eligible employees who are not currently enrolled may enroll, and enrolled employees may change from one plan or option to another, from self only to self and family, or make a combination of these changes. Open season also allows employees to change their premium conversion election. Premium conversion is a “pre-tax” arrangement, meaning that your health insurance premiums will become non-taxable. Any eligible employee who enrolls in FEHB may also elect to participate or waive participation in premium conversion. ***An employee who participates in premium conversion may no longer cancel or change to self-only enrollment at any time. These changes may be made only during open season or when a qualifying life event occurs.***

If you are considering enrolling or making an enrollment change, the 2007 Federal Employees Health Benefits (FEHB) Guide contains a comparison chart that gives general information about each plan and shows biweekly and monthly premium rates. The guide can be downloaded from the FEHB web site www.opm.gov/insure/health or can be obtained from your human resources staff, or your field office administrative personnel.

It is recommended not to rely solely on the FEHB Guide but to obtain and thoroughly review the brochure of the plan you are considering. All plan brochures are posted on OPM’s web site www.opm.gov/insure/health. Most health plan brochures are also available in your field offices and in the California State Office, Human Resource Services Branch.

Please be aware of some significant plan changes for 2007.

- **Universal Care** - Plan codes 6Q1, 6Q2, 6Q4 and 6Q5 will be terminating from the FEHB Program at the end of 2006. Enrollees in these plans must change health plans during open season or they will not have health benefits during 2007.
- **Aetna Health Fund** - Plan codes 221, 222, 224 and 225 will be dropping coverage for the entire Nevada County area. Enrollees in Nevada County who do not change plans during open season will have to travel to their plan’s remaining service area to obtain medical care in order to receive full benefits from the plan in 2007.

- **Aetna Open Access** – Plan codes 2X1 and 2X2 is expanding the service area by adding the town of Ripley in Riverside County, and the town of Amboy in San Bernardino County.

To enroll or make a change in your health benefit plan, you must either (1) submit by close of business on **December 11, 2006**, your completed Health Benefits Election Form (SF-2809) to the Human Resource Services Branch (CA-945); or (2) enroll or make a change in your health benefit plan through the use of Employee Express at www.employeeexpress.gov. When using Employee Express ask for verification of your transaction. **Please use only one of the two methods, not both.**

Beginning this November, Employee Express has expanded the options for making changes to your health benefits on line. You now can make changes to your health plan or stop coverage based on the following Qualifying Life Events (QLE) - marriage, adoption, acquiring a foster child, legal separation, legal divorce, death of spouse, or a dependent reaching age 22.

New enrollments, changes to current enrollments, and changes to premium conversion elections made during open season will become effective on **January 7, 2007**.

Enrollees who wish to continue their current enrollments and premium conversion elections do not need to take any action during this open season, but it is recommended that they at least review the 2006 rate and benefit changes for their plan.

Questions regarding the FEHB Open Season should be addressed to Angie Dailly at (916) 978-4476.

Signed by:
Karen Barnette
DSD, Support Services

Authenticated by:
Richard A. Erickson
Records Management