



United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

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Information Bulletin No. **CA-2006-002**

To: All Employees

From: DSD, Division of Support Services

Subject: 2005 Health Benefits Open Season

The Federal Employees Health Benefits (FEHB) open season will be held from **November 14 through December 12, 2005**. 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 2006 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 is located at www.opm.gov/insure 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 brochures are available on the Office of Personnel Management’s web site** www.opm.gov/insure. Most health plan brochures are also available in your field offices and in the California State Office, Human Resource Services Branch.

There is one significant plan change which affects certain Southern California Kaiser members this year.

- **Kaiser Foundation Health Plan** - Plan codes 621, 622, 624 and 625 which serves the Southern California Area will move two Zip Codes in Tulare County: 93228 and 93261 to its Northern California Plan. Kaiser members who live in the above mentioned Zip Codes must make a positive open season change to enroll in the Kaiser Northern Plan codes 591, 592, 594 and 595 or elect another health plan during the open season. They will not be transferred automatically to the Northern California Plan.

To enroll or make a change in your health benefit plan, you must either (1) submit by close of business on December 12, 2005, 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 or via telephone on 478-757-3030. When using Employee Express ask for verification of your transaction. When this is received, please provide a copy to the Human Resources office to place in your Official Personnel Folder as part of your FEHB record. **Please use only one of the two methods, not both.**

New enrollments, changes to current enrollments, and changes to premium conversion elections made during open season will become effective on **January 8, 2006**.

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 this bulletin should be directed to Angie Dailly, Human Resource Services at (916) 978-4476.

Signed by:
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Records Management