



***Retirement and Insurance Service  
Benefits Administration Letter***

Number: 02-401

Date: May 9, 2002

**Subject: Federal Employees Health Benefits (FEHB) Program: Effective Date for  
Open Season Elections**

**PURPOSE**

This is to advise Federal agencies that we are postponing indefinitely the publication of final FEHB regulations to change the effective date of open season elections to January 1.

**BACKGROUND**

On August 31, 1998, we published proposed FEHB regulations in the Federal Register (63 FR 46180) that would change the effective date of open season elections to January 1 of the next year. In Benefits Administration Letter 01-213 dated July 18, 2001, we stated our intent to issue final regulations that would have made all open season elections effective January 1, beginning with January 1, 2003. We had planned to require agencies to prorate FEHB premiums when January 1 is not at the beginning of a pay period.

We must again defer issuing the final regulations in light of the OPM E-Government Payroll Office Project to modernize HR/Payroll systems and processes across Government.

**CONCLUSION**

Until further notice, **open season elections will continue to take effect on the first day of the first pay period beginning in January. New premiums will also continue to begin on the first day of the first pay period in January, as required by law.**

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*Civil Service  
Retirement  
System*

*Federal Employees'  
Group Life  
Insurance Program*

*Federal Employees  
Health Benefits  
Program*

*Federal Employees  
Retirement  
System*

*Federal Long  
Term Care  
Insurance  
Program*

We apologize for any inconvenience this postponement may have caused your agency. If you have any questions about this matter, please contact Barbara Myers at (202) 606-0004 or [bdmyers@opm.gov](mailto:bdmyers@opm.gov).

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Abby L. Block". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Abby L. Block  
Assistant Director  
for Insurance Programs