

## 1602.170-8

### 1602.170-8 FEHBP.

*FEHBP* means the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program.

[52 FR 16038, May 1, 1987. Redesignated at 62 FR 47574, Sept. 10, 1997]

### 1602.170-9 Health benefits plan.

*Health benefits plan* means a group insurance policy, contract, medical or hospital service agreement, membership or subscription contract, or similar group arrangements provided by a carrier for the purpose of providing, arranging for, delivering, paying for, or reimbursing any of the costs of health care services.

[62 FR 47574, Sept. 10, 1997]

### 1602.170-10 Letter of credit.

*Letter of credit* means the method by which certain carriers, and their underwriters if authorized, receive recurring premium payments and contingency reserve payments by drawing against a commitment (certified by a responsible OPM official) which specifies a dollar amount available. For each carrier participating in the letter of credit arrangement for payment under this part, the terms "carrier reserves," and "special reserves" include any balance in the carrier's letter of credit account.

[53 FR 51783, Dec. 23, 1988, as amended at 57 FR 14359, Apr. 20, 1992. Redesignated at 62 FR 47574, Sept. 10, 1997]

### 1602.170-11 Negotiated benefits contracts.

*Negotiated benefits contracts* are FEHBP contracts in which benefits provided and subscription income are based on either community rating or experience rating.

[62 FR 47574, Sept. 10, 1997]

### 1602.170-12 OPM.

*OPM* means the Office of Personnel Management.

[52 FR 16038, May 1, 1987. Redesignated at 53 FR 51783, Dec. 23, 1988 and further redesignated at 62 FR 47574, Sept. 10, 1997]

### 1602.170-13 Similarly sized subscriber groups.

(a) *Similarly sized subscriber groups* (SSSGs) are a comprehensive medical

## 48 CFR Ch. 16 (10-1-11 Edition)

plan carrier's two employer groups that:

(1) As of the date specified by OPM in the rate instructions, have a subscriber enrollment closest to the FEHBP subscriber enrollment; and,

(2) Use any rating method other than retrospective experience rating; and,

(3) Meet the criteria specified in the rate instructions issued by OPM.

(b) Any group with which an FEHB carrier enters into an agreement to provide health care services is a potential SSSG (including separate lines of business, government entities, groups that have multi-year contracts, and groups having point-of-service products).

(c) Exceptions to the general rule stated in paragraph (b) of this section are (and the following groups must be excluded from SSSG consideration):

(1) Groups the carrier rates by the method of retrospective experience rating;

(2) Groups consisting of the carrier's own employees;

(3) Medicaid groups, Medicare groups, and groups that have only a stand alone benefit (such as dental only);

(4) A purchasing alliance whose rate-setting is mandated by the State or local government.

(d) OPM shall determine the FEHBP rate by selecting the lower of the two rates derived by using rating methods consistent with those used to derive the SSSG rates.

[62 FR 47574, Sept. 10, 1997]

### 1602.170-14 FEHB-specific medical loss ratio threshold calculation.

(a) *Medical loss ratio* (MLR) means the ratio of plan incurred claims, including the issuer's expenditures for activities that improve health care quality, to total premium revenue determined by OPM, as defined by the Department of Health and Human Services.

(b) The FEHB-specific MLR will be calculated on an annual basis, with the prior year's ratio having no effect on the current plan year. This FEHB-specific MLR will be measured against an FEHB-specific MLR threshold to be put forth by OPM in the annual rate instruction letter to FEHB carriers.