

(11) Any significant changes in policies and procedures or interpretations of the contract or brochure which would affect the benefits available under the contract or the costs charged to the contract.

(12) Any fraud, embezzlement or misappropriation of FEHB funds; or

(13) Any written exceptions, reservations or qualifications expressed by the independent accounting firm (which ascribes to the standards of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants) contracted with by the Carrier to provide an opinion on its annual financial statements.

(b) Upon learning of a Significant Event OPM may institute action, in proportion to the seriousness of the event, to protect the interest of Members, including, but not limited to—

(1) Directing the Carrier to take corrective action;

(2) Suspending new enrollments under this contract;

(3) Advising Enrollees of the Significant Event and providing them an opportunity to transfer to another plan;

(4) Withholding payment of subscription income or restricting access to the Carrier's Letter of Credit account.

(5) Terminating the enrollment of those enrollees who, in the judgment of OPM, would be adversely affected by the Significant Event; or

(6) Terminating this contract pursuant to section 1.15, renewal and withdrawal of approval.

(c) Prior to taking action as described in paragraph (b) of this clause, the OPM will notify the Carrier and offer an opportunity to respond.

(d) The carrier will insert this clause in any subcontract or subcontract modification if the amount of the subcontract or modification charged to the FEHB Program (or in the case of a community-rated carrier, applicable to the FEHB Program) equals or exceeds \$550,000 and is at least 25 percent of the total subcontract cost. The amount of the dollar charge to the FEHB Program shall be adjusted by the same amount and at the same time as any change to the threshold for application of the Truth in Negotiations Act pursuant to 41 U.S.C. 254b(a)(7).

(End of clause)

[52 FR 16044, May 1, 1987, as amended at 55 FR 27417, July 2, 1990; 70 FR 31383, June 1, 2005; 71 FR 3016, Jan. 19, 2006]

#### **1652.224-70 Confidentiality of records.**

As prescribed in 1624.104, the following clause shall be inserted in all FEHBP contracts:

#### **CONFIDENTIALITY OF RECORDS (JAN 1991)**

(a) The Carrier shall use the personal data on employees and annuitants that is provided by agencies and OPM, including social security numbers, for only those routine uses stipulated for the data and published annually in the FEDERAL REGISTER as a part of OPM's notice of systems of records.

(b) The Carrier shall also hold all medical records, and information relating thereto, of Federal subscribers and family members confidential except as follows:

(1) As may be reasonably necessary for the administration of this contract;

(2) As authorized by the patient or his or her guardian;

(3) As disclosure is necessary to permit Government officials having authority to investigate and prosecute alleged civil or criminal actions;

(4) As necessary to audit the contract;

(5) As necessary to carry out the coordination of benefits provisions of this contract; and

(6) For bona fide medical research or educational purposes. Release of information for medical research or educational purposes shall be limited to aggregated information of a statistical nature that does not identify any individual by name, social security number, or any other identifier unique to an individual.

(c) If the carrier uses medical records for the administration of the contract, or for bona fide medical research or educational purposes, it shall so state in the plan's brochure.

(End of clause)

[52 FR 16044, May 1, 1987, as amended at 55 FR 27417, July 2, 1990]

#### **1652.229-70 Taxes—Foreign Negotiated benefits contracts.**

As prescribed in section 1629.402, the following clause shall be inserted in all FEHBP contracts performed outside the United States, its possessions, and Puerto Rico:

#### **TAXES—FOREIGN NEGOTIATED BENEFITS CONTRACTS (JAN 1998)**

(a) To the extent that this contract provides for performing services outside the United States, its possessions, and Puerto Rico, this clause applies in lieu of any Federal, State, and local taxes clause of the contract.

(b) "Contract date," as used in this clause, means the effective date of this contract or modification.

"Country concerned," as used in this clause, means any country, other than the United States, its possessions, and Puerto