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may defer withdrawing approval of a plan not meeting the requirement in § 890.201(a)(11) of this part when, in the judgment of OPM, the carrier shows good cause. The Director or representative may authorize a plan with fewer than 300 employees or annuitants to remain in the FEHB Program when he or she determines, in his or her discretion, that it is in the best interest of the Program (e.g., when the plan is the only plan available to enrollees in a rural area).

(b) During a current contract term, the Director, in his or her discretion, may reinstate approval of a plan or carrier under this section on a finding that the reasons for withdrawing approval no longer exist.

[55 FR 9109, Mar. 12, 1990, as amended at 57 FR 14324, Apr. 20, 1992]

§ 890.205 Nonrenewal of contracts of health benefits plans.

(a) Either OPM or the carrier may terminate a contract by giving a written notice of nonrenewal which includes an indication of the reason for the intended action.

(b) Where termination by notice of intent not to renew is made by OPM, the carrier contesting that notice may request that OPM review the proposed decision. Such review shall be conducted by the Director or a representative designated by the Director, who shall not otherwise have been a party to the initial decision to issue a notice of intent not to renew. A request for such review, which may include a request that a representative of the carrier appear personally before OPM, shall be in writing. That request must be received within 10 calendar days of the carrier's receipt of the notice of intent not to renew. Such request shall include a detailed statement as to why the carrier disagrees with OPM's notice of nonrenewal and shall be accompanied by appropriate supporting documentation. Where a carrier has requested review under this section, the final decision by OPM not to renew a health benefits contract shall be communicated to the carrier in writing not more than 30 days after OPM's receipt of the carrier's request for review, unless a later date is mutually agreed upon.

(c) In the absence of a timely request for review as set forth in paragraph (b) of this section, OPM's notice of intent not to renew will become final without further notification.

[57 FR 19374, May 6, 1992]

Subpart C—Registration and Enrollment

§ 890.301 Opportunities to register to enroll and change enrollment.

(a) *Initial registration.* Except as otherwise provided in this part, each employee who becomes eligible shall register within 31 days after becoming eligible.

(b) *Belated registration.* When an employing office determines that (1) an employee was unable, for cause beyond his or her control, to register to be enrolled or (2) an enrollee was unable, for cause beyond his or her control, to change enrollment within the time limits prescribed by this section, that office must accept his or her registration within 31 days after it advises him or her of that determination.

(c) *Reregistration.* An employee whose enrollment was terminated under § 890.304(a)(1)(v), or because he/she had a break in service of more than 3 days, shall register within 31 days after his/her return to pay status.

(d) *Open season.* (1) An open season will be held from the Monday of the second full workweek in November through the Monday of the second full workweek in December in any year—

(i) That precedes a year during which the rates or benefits of any health benefits plan in the Program will change; or

(ii) That precedes a year during which a newly-approved plan will begin participation in the Program; or

(iii) At the end of which an existing health benefits plan will cease to participate in the Program.

(2) The Director of the Office of Personnel Management may modify the dates specified in this paragraph or announce additional open seasons. Announcements of open seasons will be made by OPM in Federal Personnel Manual (FPM) Bulletins.

(3) During open season—