
FEHB Program Carrier Letter All Carriers

U.S. Office of Personnel Management
Office of Insurance Programs

Letter No. 2000-07

Date: February 28, 2000

Fee-for-service [6] Experience-rated HMO [7] Community-rated [7]

SUBJECT: Doing What Counts for Patient Safety: Federal Actions to Reduce Medical Errors and Their Impact

Late last year the Institute of Medicine (IOM) released *To Err is Human: Building a Safer Health System*. This report outlined a four-pronged approach to prevent medical mistakes and improve patient safety. On December 7, President Clinton directed the Quality Interagency Coordination Task Force (QuIC) to evaluate the IOM recommendations and respond with a strategy to identify prevalent threats to patient safety and reduce medical errors.

On February 22, the President announced the Federal response to the IOM report. We were pleased to work with the other QuIC agencies to develop the response. You can view the full text at www.quic.gov. In it you will note a number of Office of Personnel Management actions.

As we did when we successfully implemented the Patients' Bill of Rights and Responsibilities, we will work collaboratively with you to implement these important initiatives. If you have immediate comments about the Federal response or the OPM initiatives, we would be happy to hear from you. Please address your comments to Ellen Tunstall, Chief of the Insurance Planning and Evaluation Division by fax (202-606-0036) or email (eedunsta@opm.gov).

Sincerely,

(signed)
Frank D. Titus
Assistant Director
for Insurance Programs