

(6) *Reconsideration/Disputed Claims.* The requirement for carriers to reconsider disputed health benefits claims is in 5 CFR 890.105. An incomplete explanation of denied benefits by the carrier places a burden on enrollees, causing them to seek reconsideration because the carrier did not fully explain its denial. Late carrier responses to OPM's requests for the carrier's reconsideration file delays OPM's response to enrollees. The contracting officer will evaluate this item based on whether the carrier provided OPM a complete reconciliation file within the time frame specified.

(b) *Critical Contract Compliance Requirements.* This performance category will represent 30 percent of the total computation and will be based on the carrier's compliance with the following items:

(1) *Timely Submissions.* The reports specified in the *Statistics and Special Studies and FEHB Quality Assurance* clauses of the contract and are essential for tracking enrollment, finances, rates, etc. In evaluating this item, the contracting officer will consider the carrier's timely submission of the contract, signed by the contracting official, to OPM, and on its demonstrated record in providing timely and accurate reports as required.

(2) *Notification of Changes in Contract Administrators.* OPM must be able to reach the person responsible for managing the carrier's FEHB contract without delay when an enrollee calls OPM in need of urgent medical treatment, an ID card, or other service. Each carrier's designated contact must maintain telephone and electronic communications with OPM so that issues can be resolved quickly. The contracting officer will evaluate this item based on the carrier's compliance with the *Notice* clause and *Contract Administration Data* sheet in the contract, and will consider the carrier's record in notifying OPM promptly of changes in its carrier representative or contracting official, mailing or electronic address, telephone or FAX number.

(3) *Notification of Changes in Name or Ownership; or Transfer of Assets, and Notification of Other Significant Events.* OPM must be able to assess the viability of the carrier and its ability to pro-

vide health care to enrollees so that they do not experience difficulty obtaining treatment and other services. Additionally, with regard to notification to OPM of other significant events, the carrier must notify OPM of such events as lawsuits, strikes, and natural disasters so that OPM can assess the carrier's ability to pay claims and provide services to enrollees. The contracting officer will evaluate this item based on the carrier's compliance with FEHBAR Subparts 1642.12, Novation and Change-of-Name Agreements, 1642.70, Management Agreement (in Lieu of Novation Agreement), and 1652.222-70, including timely notification and explanation of all significant events that may have a material effect on the carrier's ability to perform the contract.

1609.7101-2 Community-rated carrier performance factors.

OPM will apply the Customer Service and Critical Contract Compliance Requirements percentage factors specified by the contracting officer when a community-rated carrier does not provide the information, payment, or service, perform the function, or otherwise meet its obligations as stated in 1609.7101-1. The total premium will be multiplied by the sum of all the factors and the resulting amount will be withheld from the carrier's periodic premium payments payable during the first quarter of the following contract period, unless an alternative payment arrangement is made with the carrier's contracting officer.

The factors for each basic element are set forth as follows:

COMMUNITY-RATED CARRIER PERFORMANCE FACTORS	
Element	Performance factor (to be multiplied by premium and withheld from carrier's payments)
I. Customer Service (70% of Total)007
II. Critical Contract Compliance Requirements (30% of Total)003
Maximum Aggregate Performance Factor01