

1631.205-76

(b) Selling costs are allowable costs to FEHBP contracts to the extent that they are necessary for conducting annual contract negotiations with the Government and for liaison activities necessary for ongoing contract administration. Personnel and related travel costs are allowable for attendance at Open Season Health fairs and other similar activities at which carriers give enrollees information about their choices among health plans (but see FAR 31.205-1 'Public relations and advertising costs', and The Federal Employees Health Benefits Handbook for Personnel and Payroll Offices, Subchapter S2-3(f) 'Controlling contacts between employees and carriers').

[52 FR 16041, May 1, 1987, as amended at 62 FR 47575, Sept. 10, 1997]

1631.205-76 Trade, business, technical, and professional activity costs.

(a) FEHBP participating plans, carriers, and underwriters shall seek the advance written approval of the contracting officer for allowability of all or part of the costs associated with trade, business, technical, and professional activities (FAR 31.205-43) when the allocable costs of such participation to the FEHBP will exceed \$1,000 annually and when the carrier or underwriter allocates more than 50% of the membership cost of a trade, business, technical, or professional organization to the FEHBP.

(b) When approval of costs for membership in an organization is required, the carrier or underwriter must demonstrate conclusively that membership in such an organization and participation in its activities extend beyond the contractual relationship with OPM, have a reasonable relationship to providing care and services to FEHBP enrollees, and that the organization is not engaged in activities such as those cited in FAR 31.205-22 (lobbying costs) for which costs are not allowable.

1631.205-77 FEHBP start-up and other nonrecurring costs.

Precontract costs (FAR 31.205-32) shall be allowed only to the extent provided for by advance agreement in accordance with FAR 31.109.

48 CFR Ch. 16 (10-1-02 Edition)

1631.205-78 FEHBP printed material costs.

Unless OPM determines that it is in the best interest of the FEHBP to do otherwise, if a carrier orders printed material that is available from the Government Printing Office (GPO) under the "rider system" from another source, the allowable contract charges shall be the lesser of the amount actually paid or the cost that would have been incurred had the carrier ridden OPM's GPO order.

1631.205-79 Mandatory statutory reserves.

Charges for mandatory statutory reserves are not allowed unless provided for in the contract. When the term "mandatory statutory reserve" is specifically identified as an allowable contract charge without further definition or explanation, it means a requirement imposed by State law upon the carrier to set aside a specific amount or rate of funds into a restricted reserve that is accounted for separately from all other reserves and surpluses of the carrier and which may be used only with the specific approval of the State official designated by law to make such approvals. The amount chargeable to the contract may not exceed an allocable portion of the amount actually set aside. If the statutory reserve is no longer required for the purpose for which it was created, and these funds become available for the general use of the carrier, a pro rata share based upon FEHBP's contribution to the total carrier's set aside shall be returned to the FEHBP in accordance with FAR 31.201-5.

1631.205-80 Major subcontractor service charges.

In a subcontract for enrollment and eligibility determinations, administration of claims and payment of benefits, and payment or provision of actual health services, and/or assumption of insurance risk or underwriting, when costs are determined on the basis of actual costs incurred or experience rating, any amount that exceeds the allowable cost of the subcontract (whether entitled service charge, profit, fee, contribution to reserve, surplus, or any other title) is not allowable

under the contract. Amounts which exceed allowable costs may be paid to a major subcontractor only from the service charge negotiated between OPM and the Carrier.

PART 1632—CONTRACT FINANCING

Subpart 1632.1—General

- Sec.
1632.170 Recurring premium payments to carriers.
1632.171 Clause—community-rated contracts.
1632.172 Clause—experience-rated contracts.

Subpart 1632.6—Contract Debts

- 1632.607 Tax credit.
1632.617 Contract clause.

Subpart 1632.7—Contract Funding

- 1632.770 Contingency reserve payments.
1632.771 Non-commingling of FEHBP funds.
1632.772 Contract clause.

Subpart 1632.8—Assignment of Claims

- 1632.806-70 Contract clause.

AUTHORITY: 5 U.S.C. 8913; 40 U.S.C. 486(c); 48 CFR 1.301.

SOURCE: 52 FR 16043, May 1, 1987, unless otherwise noted.

Subpart 1632.1—General

1632.170 Recurring premium payments to carriers.

(a)(1) *Recurring payments to carriers of community-rated plans.* OPM will pay to carriers of community-rated plans the premium payments received for the plan less the amounts credited to the contingency and administrative reserves, amounts assessed under paragraph (a)(2) of this section, and amounts due for other contractual obligations. Premium payments will be due and payable not later than 30 days after receipt by the Federal Employees Health Benefits (FEHB) Fund.

(2) The sum of the two performance factors applicable under 1609.7101-2 will be multiplied by the carrier's total net-to-carrier premium dollars paid for the preceding contract period. The amount obtained after the total premium is multiplied by the sum of the factors will be withheld from the carrier's

periodic premium payment payable during the first quarter of the following contract period unless an alternative payment arrangement is made with the carrier's contracting officer. OPM will deposit the withheld funds in the carrier's contingency reserve for the plan. The aggregate amount withheld annually for performance for any carrier will not exceed one percent of premium for any contract period.

(b)(1) *Recurring payments to carriers of experience-rated plans.* OPM will make payments on a letter of credit (LOC) basis. Premium payments received for the plan, less the amounts credited to the contingency and administrative reserves and amounts for other obligations due under the contract, will be made available for carrier drawdown not later than 30 days after receipt by the FEHB Fund.

(2) Withdrawals from the LOC account will be made on a checks-presented basis. Under a checks-presented basis, drawdown on the LOC is delayed until the checks issued for FEHB Program disbursements are presented to the carrier's bank for payment.

(3) OPM may grant a waiver of the restriction of LOC disbursements to a checks-presented basis if the carrier requests the waiver in writing and demonstrates to OPM's satisfaction that the checks-presented basis of LOC disbursements will result in significantly increased liability under the contract, or that the checks-presented basis of LOC disbursements is otherwise clearly and significantly detrimental to the operation of the plan. Payments to carriers that have been granted a waiver may be made by an alternative payment methodology, subject to OPM approval.

(c) *Exceptions for the 3-Year DoD Demonstration Project (10 U.S.C. 1108).* (1) Carriers will create and maintain separate risk pools for demonstration project experience and regular FEHB experience for the purpose of establishing separate premium rates.

(2) OPM will create and maintain a demonstration project Contingency Reserve separate from the regular FEHB Contingency Reserve for each carrier participating in the demonstration project.