



Secretariat

ST/IC/86/20
26 March 1986

INFORMATION CIRCULAR

To: Members of the staff enrolled in the Headquarters
Blue Cross/Aetna Major Medical scheme

From: The Controller

Subject: CHANGES IN THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE BLUE CROSS COMPONENT
OF THE HEADQUARTERS BLUE CROSS/AETNA MAJOR MEDICAL SCHEME

1. The purpose of the present circular is to inform participants in the Headquarters Blue Cross/Aetna Major Medical insurance scheme that changes are being implemented, with immediate effect, in the administration of the Blue Cross component of the scheme.
2. New hospital service identification cards bearing an individual identification number for each subscriber will henceforth be issued by the Blue Cross company. Blue Cross will also be responsible for certifying the eligibility of participants for payment of covered hospital expenses. It is expected that these changes will help expedite claims processing and simplify the claims co-ordination work of the Blue Cross claims office. The Insurance, Claims and Compensation Section, Office of Financial Services, will continue to service the staff on all other matters relating to the Blue Cross/Aetna Major Medical insurance scheme, such as enrolment in the scheme of all eligible staff members and their eligible family members and provision of information on insurance coverages.
3. Formerly, one group contract identification No. G.C.229UA applied to all participants in the Blue Cross plan. That group number has been replaced by a new group contract number, which is 174974. In addition, each subscriber in the Blue Cross plan has been issued an individual nine-digit identification number. For staff in service, that number is composed of his or her six-digit payroll index number, preceded by the number "8" and followed by "00". For example, a subscriber whose payroll index number is 123456 would be issued

Blue Cross identification No. 812345600. For participants in the After-Service Health Insurance (ASHI) programme, the nine-digit individual identification number is composed of their six-digit ASHI account number, preceded by the number "8" and followed by "91".

4. Hospital service identification cards bearing the individual identification number have been issued by Blue Cross for each subscriber who is currently enrolled in the plan. The new cards will be forwarded to the respective Executive or Administrative Offices for distribution to all subscribers. At Headquarters, the new cards will be distributed together with each subscriber's end of March 1986 pay statement. The new cards will be sent directly by the Insurance, Claims and Compensation Section to each participant in the ASHI programme.

5. The former Blue Cross hospital service identification cards bearing the group contract number G.C.229UA ARE NO LONGER VALID AND MUST BE DISCARDED. Any person insured under the Blue Cross plan who enters a hospital, either for in-patient or emergency care, MUST PRESENT TO THE HOSPITAL THE NEW BLUE CROSS CARD bearing the subscriber's individual identification number, otherwise, the patient or the subscriber may be billed directly by the hospital for all incurred hospital expenses. Subscribers are therefore urged to keep their new Blue Cross identification card in a secure place.

6. It should be noted that Blue Cross has changed its official name from Blue Cross Blue Shield of Greater New York to Empire Blue Cross Blue Shield.

7. No changes have been implemented in the administration of the Aetna component of the scheme.

8. Inquiries related to the above changes should be directed to the Insurance, Claims and Compensation Section, Room S-3265, United Nations Headquarters, New York, N.Y. 10017, extensions 6184 and 6185.
