

Avera Health Plans

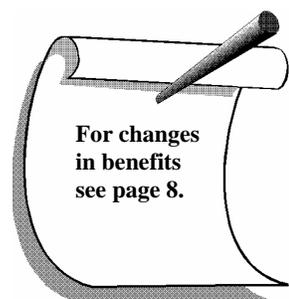
<http://www.averahealthplans.com>



A Health Maintenance Organization with a point of service product

*Serving: Eastern and Central South Dakota, Northwestern Iowa,
and Southwestern Minnesota.*

**Enrollment in this plan is limited. You must live or work in our
Geographic service area to enroll. See page 6 for requirements.**



Enrollment code for this Plan:

AV1 Self Only

AV2 Self and Family



Authorized for distribution by the:



**United States
Office of Personnel Management**

Center for
Retirement and Insurance Services
<http://www.opm.gov/insure>



UNITED STATES
OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT
WASHINGTON, DC 20415-0001

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

Dear Federal Employees Health Benefits Program Participant:

Welcome to the 2005 Open Season! By continuing to introduce pro-consumer health care ideas, the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) team has given you greater, cost effective choices. This year several national and local health plans are offering new options, strengthening the Federal Employees Health Benefits (FEHB) Program and highlighting once again its unique and distinctive market-oriented features. I remain firm in my belief that you, when fully informed as a Federal subscriber, are in the best position to make the decisions that meet your needs and those of your family. Plan brochures provide information to help subscribers make these fully informed decisions. Please take the time to review the plan's benefits, particularly Section 2, which explains plan changes.

Exciting new features this year give you additional opportunities to save and better manage your hard-earned dollars. For 2005, I am very pleased and enthusiastic about the new High Deductible Health Plans (HDHP) with a Health Savings Account (HSA) or Health Reimbursement Arrangement (HRA) component. This combination of health plan and savings vehicle provides a new opportunity to save and better manage your money. If an HDHP/HSA is not for you and you are not retired, I encourage you to consider a Flexible Spending Account (FSA) for health care. FSAs allow you to reduce your out-of-pocket health care costs by 20 to more than 40 percent by paying for certain health care expenses with tax-free dollars, instead of after-tax dollars.

Since prevention remains a major factor in the cost of health care, last year OPM launched the *HealthierFeds* campaign. Through this effort we are encouraging Federal team members to take greater responsibility for living a healthier lifestyle. The positive effect of a healthier life style brings dividends for you and reduces the demands and costs within the health care system. This campaign embraces four key "actions" that can lead to a healthy America: be physically active every day, eat a nutritious diet, seek out preventative screenings, and make healthy lifestyle choices. Be sure to visit *HealthierFeds* at www.healthierfeds.opm.gov for more details on this important initiative. I also encourage you to visit the Department of Health and Human Services website on Wellness and Safety, www.hhs.gov/safety/index.html, which complements and broadens healthier lifestyle resources. The site provides extensive information from health care experts and organizations to support your personal interest in staying healthy.

The FEHB Program offers the Federal team the widest array of cost-effective health care options and the information needed to make the best choice for you and your family. You will find comprehensive health plan information in this brochure, in the 2005 Guide to FEHB Plans, and on the OPM Website at www.opm.gov/insure. I hope you find these resources useful, and thank you once again for your service to the nation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kay C. James".

Kay Coles James
Director



Notice of the United States Office of Personnel Management's Privacy Practices

THIS NOTICE DESCRIBES HOW MEDICAL INFORMATION ABOUT YOU MAY BE USED AND DISCLOSED AND HOW YOU CAN GET ACCESS TO THIS INFORMATION. PLEASE REVIEW IT CAREFULLY.

By law, the United States Office of Personnel Management (OPM), which administers the Federal Employees Health Benefits (FEHB) Program, is required to protect the privacy of your personal medical information. OPM is also required to give you this notice to tell you how OPM may use and give out ("disclose") your personal medical information held by OPM.

OPM **will** use and give out your personal medical information:

To you or someone who has the legal right to act for you (your personal representative),

To the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services, if necessary, to make sure your privacy is protected,

To law enforcement officials when investigating and/or prosecuting alleged or civil or criminal actions, and

Where required by law.

OPM **has the right** to use and give out your personal medical information to administer the FEHB Program. For example:

To communicate with your FEHB health plan when you or someone you have authorized to act on your behalf asks for our assistance regarding a benefit or customer service issue.

To review, make a decision, or litigate your disputed claim.

For OPM and the General Accounting Office when conducting audits.

OPM **may** use or give out your personal medical information for the following purposes under limited circumstances:

For Government health care oversight activities (such as fraud and abuse investigations),

For research studies that meet all privacy law requirements (such as for medical research or education), and

To avoid a serious and imminent threat to health or safety.

By law, OPM must have your written permission (an "authorization") to use or give out your personal medical information for any purpose that is not set out in this notice. You may take back ("revoke") your written permission at any time, except if OPM has already acted based on your permission.

By law, you **have the right** to:

See and get a copy of your personal medical information held by OPM.

Amend any of your personal medical information created by OPM if you believe that it is wrong or if information is missing, and OPM agrees. If OPM disagrees, you may have a statement of your disagreement added to your personal medical information.

Get a listing of those getting your personal medical information from OPM in the past 6 years. The listing will not cover your personal medical information that was given to you or your personal representative, any information that you authorized OPM to release, or that was given out for law enforcement purposes or to pay for your health care or a disputed claim.

Ask OPM to communicate with you in a different manner or at a different place (for example, by sending materials to a P.O. Box instead of your home address).

Ask OPM to limit how your personal medical information is used or given out. However, OPM may not be able to agree to your request if the information is used to conduct operations in the manner described above.

Get a separate paper copy of this notice.

For more information on exercising your rights set out in this notice, look at www.opm.gov/insure on the Web. You may also call 202-606-0745 and ask for OPM's FEHB Program privacy official for this purpose.

If you believe OPM has violated your privacy rights set out in this notice, you may file a complaint with OPM at the following address:

Privacy Complaints
United States Office of Personnel Management
P.O. Box 707
Washington, DC 20004-0707

Filing a complaint will not affect your benefits under the FEHB Program. You also may file a complaint with the Secretary of the United States Department of Health and Human Services.

By law, OPM is required to follow the terms in this privacy notice. OPM has the right to change the way your personal medical information is used and given out. If OPM makes any changes, you will get a new notice by mail within 60 days of the change. The privacy practices listed in this notice are effective April 14, 2003.

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Introduction

This brochure describes the benefits of Avera Health Plans under our contract (CS 2863) with the United States Office of Personnel Management, as authorized by the Federal Employees Health Benefits law. The address for Avera Health Plans administrative office is:

Avera Health Plans, Inc.
3900 West Avera Drive Suite 200
Sioux Falls, SD 57108-5721

This brochure is the official statement of benefits. No oral statement can modify or otherwise affect the benefits, limitations, and exclusions of this brochure. It is your responsibility to be informed about your health benefits.

If you are enrolled in this Plan, you are entitled to the benefits described in this brochure. If you are enrolled in Self and Family coverage, each eligible family member is also entitled to these benefits. You do not have a right to benefits that were available before January 1, 2005, unless those benefits are also shown in this brochure.

OPM negotiates benefits and rates with each plan annually. Benefit changes are effective January 1, 2005, and changes are summarized on page 8. Rates are shown at the end of this brochure.

Plain Language

- *All FEHB brochures are written in plain language to make them responsive, accessible, and understandable to the public. For instance,*

Except for necessary technical terms, we use common words. For instance, “you” means the enrollee or family member, “we” means Avera Health Plans.

We limit acronyms to ones you know. FEHB is the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program. OPM is the United States Office of Personnel Management. If we use others, we tell you what they mean first.

Our brochure and other FEHB plans’ brochures have the same format and similar descriptions to help you compare plans.

If you have comments or suggestions about how to improve the structure of this brochure, let OPM know. Visit OPM’s “Rate Us” feedback area at www.opm.gov/insure or e-mail OPM at fehwebcomments@opm.gov. You may also write to OPM at the U.S. Office of Personnel Management, Insurance Services Programs, Program Planning & Evaluation Group, 1900 E Street, NW, Washington, DC 20415-3650.

Stop Health Care Fraud!

Fraud increases the cost of health care for everyone and increases your Federal Employees Health Benefits Program premium.

OPM’s Office of the Inspector General investigates all allegations of fraud, waste, and abuse in the FEHB Program regardless of the agency that employs you or from which you retired.

- **Protect Yourself From Fraud** – *Here are some things that you can do to prevent fraud:*

Be wary of giving your plan identification (ID) number over the telephone or to people you do not know, except to your doctor, other provider, or authorized plan or OPM representative.

Let only the appropriate medical professionals review your medical record or recommend services. Avoid using health care providers who say that an item or service is not usually covered, but they know how to bill us to get it paid.

Carefully review explanations of benefits (EOBs) that you receive from us.

Do not ask your doctor to make false entries on certificates, bills or records in order to get us to pay for an item or service.

If you suspect that a provider has charged you for services you did not receive, billed you twice for the same service, or misrepresented any information, do the following:

Call the provider and ask for an explanation. There may be an error.

If the provider does not resolve the matter, call us at 1-888-322-2115 and explain the situation.

If we do not resolve the issue:

**CALL — THE HEALTH CARE FRAUD HOTLINE
202-418-3300**

OR WRITE TO:

**United States Office of Personnel Management
Office of the Inspector General Fraud Hotline
1900 E Street NW Room 6400
Washington, DC 20415-1100**

Do not maintain as a family member on your policy:

Your former spouse after a divorce decree or annulment is final (even if a court order stipulates otherwise); or

Your child over age 22 (unless he/she is disabled and incapable of self support).

If you have any questions about the eligibility of a dependent, check with your personnel office if you are employed, with your retirement office (such as OPM) if you are retired, or with the National Finance Center if you are enrolled under Temporary Continuation of Coverage.

You can be prosecuted for fraud and your agency may take action against you if you falsify a claim to obtain FEHB benefits or try to obtain services for someone who is not an eligible family member or who is no longer enrolled in the Plan.

Preventing medical mistakes

An influential report from the Institute of Medicine estimates that up to 98,000 Americans die every year from medical mistakes in hospitals alone. That's about 3,230 preventable deaths in the FEHB Program a year. While death is the most tragic outcome, medical mistakes cause other problems such as permanent disabilities, extended hospital stays, longer recoveries, and even additional treatments. By asking questions, learning more and understanding your risks, you can improve the safety of your own health care, and that of your family members. Take these simple steps:

1. Ask questions if you have doubts or concerns.

Ask questions and make sure you understand the answers.

Choose a doctor with whom you feel comfortable talking.

Take a relative or friend with you to help you ask questions and understand answers.

2. Keep and bring a list of all the medicines you take.

Give your doctor and pharmacist a list of all the medicines that you take, including non-prescription medicines.

Tell them about any drug allergies you have.

Ask about side effects and what to avoid while taking the medicine.

Read the label when you get your medicine, including all warnings.

Make sure your medicine is what the doctor ordered and know how to use it.

Ask the pharmacist about your medicine if it looks different than you expected.

3. Get the results of any test or procedure.

Ask when and how you will get the results of tests or procedures.

Don't assume the results are fine if you do not get them when expected, be it in person, by phone, or by mail.

Call your doctor and ask for your results.

Ask what the results mean for your care.

4. Talk to your doctor about which hospital is best for your health needs.

Ask your doctor about which hospital has the best care and results for your condition if you have more than one hospital to choose from to get the health care you need.

Be sure you understand the instructions you get about follow-up care when you leave the hospital.

5. Make sure you understand what will happen if you need surgery.

Make sure you, your doctor, and your surgeon all agree on exactly what will be done during the operation.

Ask your doctor, "Who will manage my care when I am in the hospital?"

Ask your surgeon:

Exactly what will you be doing?

About how long will it take?

What will happen after surgery?

How can I expect to feel during recovery?

Tell the surgeon, anesthesiologist, and nurses about any allergies, bad reaction to anesthesia, and any medications you are taking.

Want more information on patient safety?

- www.ahrq.gov/consumer/pathqpack.html. The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality makes available a wide-ranging list of topics not only to inform consumers about patient safety but to help choose quality health care providers and improve the quality of care you receive.
- www.npsf.org. The National Patient Safety Foundation has information on how to ensure safer health care for you and your family.
- www.talkaboutrx.org/consumer.html. The National Council on Patient Information and Education is dedicated to improving communication about the safe, appropriate use of medicines.
- www.leapfroggroup.org. The Leapfrog Group is active in promoting safe practices in hospital care.
- www.ahqa.org. The American Health Quality Association represents organizations and health care professionals working to improve patient safety.
- www.quic.gov/report. Find out what federal agencies are doing to identify threats to patient safety and help prevent mistakes in the nation's health care delivery system.

Section 1. Facts about this HMO plan

This Plan is a health maintenance organization (HMO). We require you to see specific physicians, hospitals, and other providers that contract with us. These Plan providers coordinate your health care services. The Plan is solely responsible for the selection of these providers in your area. Contact the Plan for a copy of their most recent provider directory.

HMOs emphasize preventive care such as routine office visits, physical exams, well-baby care, and immunizations, in addition to treatment for illness and injury. Our providers follow generally accepted medical practice when prescribing any course of treatment.

When you receive services from Plan providers, you will not have to submit claim forms or pay bills. You pay only the copayments, coinsurance, and deductibles described in this brochure. When you receive emergency services from non-Plan providers, you may have to submit claim forms.

You should join an HMO because you prefer the plan's benefits, not because a particular provider is available. You cannot change plans because a provider leaves our Plan. We cannot guarantee that any one physician, hospital, or other provider will be available and/or remain under contract with us.

We also have Point of Service (POS) benefits

Our HMO offers POS benefits. This means you can receive covered services from a participating provider without a required referral, or from a non-participating provider. These out-of-network benefits have higher out-of-pocket costs than our in-network benefits.

How we pay providers

We contract with individual physicians, medical groups, and hospitals to provide the benefits in this brochure. These Plan providers accept a negotiated payment from us, and you will only be responsible for your copayments or coinsurance. Participating physicians and other health care professionals submit claims to us for services provided to you and they are reimbursed on a fee for service basis. The fee is an amount negotiated by the participating provider and Avera Health Plans. Participating hospitals that provide services to Avera Health Plans members are reimbursed on a fee for service basis or on an amount that is calculated by multiplying the number of days you are hospitalized by a specified amount. There are no contractual arrangements in place between Avera Health Plans and participating providers that would create an incentive for providers to withhold care.

Your Rights

OPM requires that all FEHB Plans provide certain information to their FEHB members. You may get information about networks, our providers, facilities, and us. OPM's FEHB Web site (www.opm.gov/insure) lists the specific types of information that we must make available to you. Some of the required information is listed below.

- Avera Health Plans is a for profit division of Avera Health that was established to provide health care financing and delivery services.
- Avera Health Plans operates under a Certificate of Authority issued by the South Dakota Division of Insurance and the Iowa Division of Insurance.
- Avera Health Plans began operations in October of 1999 and provides health care coverage and services to over 10,000 individuals in South Dakota, Iowa, Minnesota, and Nebraska.

If you want more information about us, call 605-322-4545 or 888-322-2115, or write to Avera Health Plans, 3900 W. Avera Drive, Suite 200, Sioux Falls, SD 57108-5721. You may also contact us by fax at 605/322-4535 or visit our website at www.averahealthplans.com.

Service Area

To enroll in this Plan, you must live in or work in our Service Area. This is where our providers practice. Our service area in South Dakota is the following counties in Central and Eastern South Dakota: Aurora, Beadle, Bon

Homme, Brookings, Brown, Brule, Buffalo, Charles Mix, Clark, Clay, Codington, Davison, Day, Deuel, Douglas, Edmonds, Faulk, Grant, Gregory, Hamlin, Hand, Hanson, Hughes, Hutchinson, Jerauld, Kingsbury, Lake, Lincoln, Marshall, McCook, McPherson, Miner, Minnehaha, Moody, Roberts, Sanborn, Spink, Tripp, Turner, Union, Walworth, and Yankton.

In Iowa our Service Area is: Dickinson, Emmet, Lyon, O'Brien, Plymouth, Osceola, and Sioux counties.

In Minnesota our Service area is: Cottonwood, Jackson, Lincoln, Murray, Nobles, Pipestone and Rock counties.

Ordinarily, you must get your care from providers who contract with us. If you receive care outside our service area, we will pay only for emergency care benefits. We will not pay for any other health care services out of our service area unless the services have prior plan approval.

If you or a covered family member move outside of our service area, you can enroll in another plan. If your dependents live out of the area (for example, if your child goes to college in another state), you should consider enrolling in a fee-for-service plan or an HMO that has agreements with affiliates in other areas. If you or a family member move, you do not have to wait until Open Season to change plans. Contact your employing or retirement office.

Section 2. How we change for 2005

Do not rely on these change descriptions; this page is not an official statement of benefits. For that, go to Section 5 Benefits. Also, we edited and clarified language throughout the brochure; any language change not shown here is a clarification that does not change benefits.

Program-wide changes

In Section 9, we revised the **Medicare Primary Payer Chart** and updated the language regarding Medicare Advantage plans (formerly called Medicare + Choice plans).

In Section 12, we revised the language regarding the Flexible Spending Account Program - *FSAFEDS* and the Federal Long Term Care Insurance Program.

Changes to this Plan

Your share of the non-Postal premium will increase by 85.2% for Self Only or 75.9% for Self and Family.

The calendar year deductible is increased from \$350 per person and \$750 per family to \$500 per person and \$1000 per family for In-Network Services.

The age limits for Osteoporosis Screening have been revised so one routine baseline screening is covered for persons after age 50.

Mammogram coverage has been expanded to include one routine mammogram every calendar year for women after age 40.

Roberts County, South Dakota has been added to the AHP FEHB Service Area.

Section 3. How you get care

Identification cards

We will send you an identification (ID) card when you enroll. You should carry your ID card with you at all times. You must show it whenever you receive services from a Plan provider, or fill a prescription at a Plan pharmacy. Until you receive your ID card, use your copy of the Health Benefits Election Form, SF-2809, your health benefits enrollment confirmation (for annuitants), or your Employee Express confirmation letter.

If you do not receive your ID card within 30 days after the effective date of your enrollment, or if you need replacement cards, call us at 888-322-2115 or write to us at Avera Health Plans, 3900 West Avera Drive, Suite 200, Sioux Falls, SD 57108-5721. You may also request replacement cards through our website at www.averahealthplans.com.

Where you get covered care

You get care from “Plan providers” and “Plan facilities.” You will only pay copayments, deductibles, and/or coinsurance, and you will not have to file claims. If you use our point-of-service program, you can also get care from non-Plan providers, or from participating providers without a required referral, but it will cost you more.

- **Plan providers**

Plan providers are physicians and other health care professionals in our service area that we contract with to provide covered services to our members. We credential Plan providers according to national standards.

We list Plan providers in the provider directory, which we update periodically. The list is also on our Web site at www.averahealthplans.com.

- **Plan facilities**

Plan facilities are hospitals and other facilities in our service area that we contract with to provide covered services to our members. We list these in the provider directory, which we update periodically. The list is also on our Web site.

What you must do to get covered care

It depends on the type of care you need. First, you and each family member must choose a primary care physician. This decision is important since your primary care physician provides or arranges for most of your health care. Primary care physicians are listed in a primary care physician section of our provider directory.

- **Primary care**

Your primary care physician can be a *Family Practitioner*, Internist, General Practitioner, Obstetrician/Gynecologist, or Pediatrician. Your primary care physician will provide most of your health care, or give you a referral to see a specialist.

If you want to change primary care physicians or if your primary care physician leaves the Plan, call us. We will help you select a new one.

- **Specialty care**

- *Your primary care physician will refer you to a specialist for needed care. However, you may see a specialist without a referral.*
- *Here are some other things you should know about specialty care:*
- *If you need to see a specialist frequently because of a chronic, complex, or serious medical condition, your primary care physician will develop a treatment plan that allows you to see your specialist for a certain number of visits without additional referrals. Your primary care physician will use our criteria when creating your treatment plan (the physician may have to get an authorization or approval beforehand).*
- *If you are seeing a specialist when you enroll in our Plan, talk to your primary care physician. Your primary care physician will decide what treatment you need. If he or she decides to refer you to a specialist, ask if you can see your current specialist. If your current specialist does not participate with us you may continue to receive services under point-of-service (POS) benefits, but it will cost you more.*
- *If you are seeing a specialist and your specialist leaves the Plan, call your primary care physician, who will arrange for you to see another specialist. You may receive services from your current specialist until we can make arrangements for you to see someone else.*
- *If you have a chronic and disabling condition and lose access to your specialist because we:*

*Terminate our contract with your specialist for other than cause; or
Drop out of the Federal Employees Health Benefits (FEHB) Program
and you enroll in another FEHB program Plan; or
Reduce our service area and you enroll in another FEHB Plan,*

- *you may be able to continue seeing your specialist for up to 90 days after you receive notice of the change. Contact us, or if we drop out of the Program, contact your new plan.*
- *If you are in the second or third trimester of pregnancy and you lose access to your specialist based on the above circumstances, you can continue to see your specialist until the end of your postpartum care, even if it is beyond the 90 days.*

- **Hospital care**

Your Plan primary care physician or specialist will make necessary hospital arrangements and supervise your care. This includes admission to a skilled nursing or other type of facility.

If you are in the hospital when your enrollment in our Plan begins, call our customer service department immediately at 888-322-2115. If you are new to the FEHB Program, we will arrange for you to receive care.

If you changed from another FEHB plan to us, your former plan will pay for the hospital stay until:

- You are discharged, not merely moved to an alternative care center; or
- The day your benefits from your former plan run out; or
- The 92nd day after you become a member of this Plan, whichever happens first.

These provisions apply only to the benefits of the hospitalized person. If your plan terminates participation in the FEHB Program in whole or in part, or if OPM orders an enrollment change, this continuation of coverage provision does not apply. In such case, the hospitalized family member's benefits under the new plan begin on the effective date of enrollment.

Circumstances beyond our control

Under certain extraordinary circumstances, such as natural disasters, we may have to delay your services or we may be unable to provide them. In that case, we will make all reasonable efforts to provide you with the necessary care.

Services requiring our prior approval

Your primary care physician has authority to refer you for most services. For certain services, however, your physician must obtain approval from us. Before giving approval, we consider if the service is covered, medically necessary, and follows generally accepted medical practice.

We call this review and approval process precertification. Your physician must obtain precertification for the following services:

Consideration of In-Network Benefits for Out-of-Network Care (except emergency and urgent care)

Inpatient Hospital Admissions

Inpatient Alcoholism & Chemical Dependency Treatment

Inpatient Mental Health Services

Organ Transplants

Under your point-of-service (POS) benefit these services need to be precertified. The ultimate responsibility for requesting precertification remains with you, however, information provided by your provider's office will also satisfy this requirement. If you require any of the services listed above, you must contact Medical Management at **888-605-1331** as soon as possible after the indication of need for the services.

The AHP Medical Management Department will review the Member profile information against standard criteria. A determination will be made by the Medical Management Department within forty-eight (48) hours of the initial request or the next business day if the request is made on a weekend or holiday. The determination shall either be an authorization for the requested service or additional review by the AHP Medical Director.

If the determination is to authorize the requested service, you, the attending provider, and those providers involved in the provision of the service shall be notified of the decision in writing. When the service is approved, the Medical Management Department will assign an authorization number.

When the request requires a need for further review, an intensified review will be performed by the AHP Medical Director. If additional documentation is required, you, your representative, and/or the provider shall be responsible for submitting any necessary information. A determination either authorizing or denying the request for services will be made in writing. The attending practitioner, those providers involved in the provision of the service and you shall be notified of the decision.

If the decision is to deny the service, you and those providers who are involved in the provision of the service shall be informed of the reasons for the denial and the disputed claims process. (See page 48)

AHP will not deny coverage for the health care services listed in this section which you have already received solely on the basis of lack of precertification to the extent that the health care services would otherwise have been covered had precertification been obtained.

Services listed in this section that you obtain under the point-of-service (out of network) are subject to precertification.

Section 4. Your costs for covered services

You must share the costs of some services. You are responsible for:

Copayments

A copayment is a fixed amount of money you pay to the provider, facility, pharmacy, etc., when you receive services.

Example: When you see your primary care physician you pay a copayment of \$10 per office visit and when you go in the hospital, you pay \$100 per admission.

Deductible

A deductible is a fixed expense you must incur for certain covered services and supplies before we start paying benefits for them. Copayments do not count toward any deductible.

The calendar year deductible is \$500 per person under our plan. Under a family enrollment, the deductible is considered satisfied and benefits are payable for all family members when the combined covered expenses applied to the calendar year deductible for family members reach \$1000 under our plan.

Note: If you change plans during open season, you do not have to start a new deductible under your old plan between January 1 and the effective date of your new plan. If you change plans at another time during the year, you must begin a new deductible under your new plan.

And, if you change options in this Plan during the year, we will credit the amount of covered expenses already applied toward the deductible of your old option to the deductible of your new option.

Coinsurance

Coinsurance is the percentage of our negotiated fee that you must pay for your care. Coinsurance doesn't begin until you meet your deductible.

Example: In our Plan, you pay 20% of our allowance for infertility services and durable medical equipment for services received in network.

After your coinsurance totals \$1,500 per person or \$3,000 per family enrollment in any

calendar year, you do not have to pay any more for covered services. However, copayments for the following services do not count toward your out-of-pocket maximum, and you must

continue to pay copayments for these services:

- Physician office visits
- Preventive care examinations
- Chiropractic office visits
- Hospital services
- Skilled nursing facility services
- Outpatient mental health services
- Inpatient chemical dependency treatment
- Partial day chemical dependency treatment
- Prescription drugs

Be sure to keep accurate records of your coinsurance since you are responsible for informing us when you reach the maximum.

Your catastrophic protection out-of-pocket maximum

Section 5. Benefits – OVERVIEW

(See page 8 for how our benefits changed this year and page 62 for a benefits summary.)

Note: This benefits section is divided into subsections. Please read the important things you should keep in mind at the beginning of each subsection. Also read the General Exclusions in Section 6; they apply to the benefits in the following subsections. To obtain claim forms, claims filing advice, or more information about our benefits, contact us at 888-322-2115 or at our Web site at www.averahealthplans.com.

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Section 5(a) Medical services and supplies provided by physicians and other health care professionals

Here are some important things you should keep in mind about these benefits:

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Please remember that all benefits are subject to the definitions, limitations, and exclusions in this brochure and are payable only when we determine they are medically necessary. The calendar year deductible is: \$500 per person (\$1000 per family). The calendar year deductible applies to almost all benefits in this Section. We added “(No deductible)” to show when the calendar year deductible does not apply. Be sure to read Section 4, *Your costs for covered services*, for valuable information about how cost sharing works. Also read Section 9 about coordinating benefits with other coverage, including with Medicare.

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Benefit Description	You pay After the calendar year deductible...
<p>Note: The calendar year deductible applies to almost all benefits in this Section. We say “(No deductible)” when it does not apply.</p>	
Diagnostic and treatment services	
Professional services of physicians In physician’s office	\$10 per visit to your primary care physician (PCP) \$15 per visit to a specialist Out of Network: 40% after deductible, plus any difference between our allowable charge and the provider’s actual charge.
Professional services of physicians In an urgent care center During a hospital stay In a skilled nursing facility Office medical consultations Second surgical opinion	In Network: 20% after deductible. Out of Network: 40% after deductible plus any difference between our allowable charge and the provider’s actual charge.
At home	Nothing

Diagnostic and treatment services – continued on next page

Diagnostic and treatment services (continued)	You pay
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Lab, X-ray and other diagnostic tests	
<p>Tests, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blood tests • Urinalysis • Non-routine pap tests • Pathology • X-rays • Non-routine Mammograms • CAT Scans/MRI • Ultrasound • Electrocardiogram and EEG 	<p>In Network: 20% after deductible.</p> <p>Out of Network: 40% after deductible plus any difference between our allowable charge and the provider's actual charge.</p>
Preventive care, adult	
<p><i>Routine Screenings such as:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Total Blood Cholesterol – once every three years or Routine Lipid Screening – once every five years</i> • <i>Routine Prostate Specific Antigen (PSA test) – one annually for men age 40 and older</i> • <i>Colorectal Cancer Screening, including:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fecal occult blood test annually - Double contrast barium enema every five years starting at age 50 - Sigmoidoscopy, screening – every five years starting at age 50 - Screening Colonoscopy– every ten years starting at age 50 • <i>Routine Glucose Screening – once every three years</i> • <i>Routine Osteoporosis Screening – one baseline screening after the age of 50</i> 	<p>In Network: Nothing .</p> <p>Out of Network: All Charges.</p>
<p>Routine pap test</p> <p>Note: The office visit is covered if pap test is received on the same day; see <i>Diagnosis and Treatment</i>, above.</p>	<p>In Network: Nothing</p> <p>Out of Network: All Charges.</p>
<i>Preventive care, adult – continued on next page</i>	
Preventive care, adult (continued)	You pay

<p>Routine mammogram – covered for women age 35 and older, as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • From age 35 through 39, one during this five year period • From age 40 and older, one every calendar year 	<p>In Network: Nothing</p> <p>Out of Network: All Charges.</p>
<p>Routine immunizations, limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tetanus-diphtheria (Td) booster – once every 10 years, ages 19 and over (except as provided for under Childhood immunizations) • Influenza vaccine, annually • Pneumococcal vaccine, age 65 and older 	<p>In Network: Nothing</p> <p>Out of Network: All Charges.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not covered: Physical exams required for obtaining or continuing employment or insurance, attending schools or camp, or travel. 	<p><i>All charges.</i></p>
<p>Preventive care, children</p>	<p>You Pay</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Childhood immunizations recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics 	<p>In Network: Nothing</p> <p>Out of Network: All Charges.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Well-child care charges for routine examinations, immunizations and care (up to age 22) • Examinations, such as: <p>Eye exams through age 17 to determine the need for vision correction</p> <p>Ear exams through age 17 to determine the need for hearing correction</p> <p>Examinations done on the day of immunizations (up to age 22)</p> 	<p>In Network: Nothing with PCP to age 6 \$10 with PCP age 7-22 \$15 with a Specialist</p> <p>Out of Network: All Charges.</p> <p>For Lab and X-ray: In Network: 20% after deductible.</p> <p>Out of Network: All Charges.</p>

Maternity care	You pay
<p>Complete maternity (obstetrical) care, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prenatal care • Delivery • Postnatal care <p>Note: Here are some things to keep in mind:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You do not need to precertify your normal delivery; see page 11 for other circumstances, such as extended stays for you or your baby. • You may remain in the hospital up to 48 hours after a regular delivery and 96 hours after a cesarean delivery. We will extend your inpatient stay if medically necessary. • We cover routine nursery care of the newborn child during the covered portion of the mother's maternity stay. We will cover other care of an infant who requires non-routine treatment only if we cover the infant under a Self and Family enrollment. • We pay hospitalization and surgeon services (delivery) the same as for illness and injury. See Hospital benefits (Section 5c) and Surgery benefits (Section 5b). 	<p>In Network: Nothing</p> <p>Out of Network: 40% after deductible plus any difference between our allowable charge and the provider's actual charge.</p>
Family planning	You Pay
<p>A range of voluntary family planning services, limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Voluntary sterilization (See Surgical procedures Section 5 (b)) • Surgically implanted contraceptives • Injectable contraceptive drugs (such as Depo provera) • Intrauterine devices (IUDs) • Diaphragms <p>Note: We cover oral contraceptives under the prescription drug benefit.</p>	<p>In Network: \$10 per visit to your primary care physician \$15 per visit to a specialist</p> <p>Out of Network: 40% after deductible plus any difference between our allowable charge and the provider's actual charge.</p>
<p><i>Not covered:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reversal of voluntary surgical sterilization Genetic counseling and testing 	<p><i>All charges.</i></p>
Infertility services	You pay
<p>Diagnosis and treatment of infertility such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Artificial insemination: <i>intravaginal insemination (IVI)</i> <i>intra-cervical insemination (ICI)</i> <i>intrauterine insemination (IUI)</i> 	<p>In Network: 20% after deductible.</p> <p>Out of Network: 40% after deductible plus any difference between our allowable charge and the provider's actual charge.</p>

Infertility Services – continued on next page

Infertility services <i>(continued)</i>	You pay
<p><i>Not covered:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assisted reproductive technology (ART) procedures, such as: <i>in vitro fertilization</i> <i>embryo transfer, gamete GIFT and zygote ZIFT</i> <i>zygote transfer</i> Services and supplies related to ART procedures Cost of donor sperm Cost of donor egg Infertility services after voluntary sterilization Infertility Drugs 	<p><i>All charges.</i></p>
Allergy care	You Pay
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Testing and treatment Allergy injections 	<p>In Network: 20% after deductible</p> <p>Out of Network: 40% after deductible plus any difference between our allowable charge and the provider's actual charge.</p>
<p>Allergy serum</p>	<p>In Network: Nothing</p> <p>Out of Network: 40% after deductible plus any difference between our allowable charge and the provider's actual charge.</p>
<p><i>Not covered: Provocative food testing and sublingual allergy desensitization</i></p>	<p><i>All charges.</i></p>

Treatment therapies	You pay
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chemotherapy and radiation therapy <p>Note: High dose chemotherapy in association with autologous bone marrow transplants is limited to those transplants listed under Organ/Tissue Transplants on page 27.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Respiratory and inhalation therapy • Dialysis – hemodialysis and peritoneal dialysis • Intravenous (IV)/Infusion Therapy – Home IV and antibiotic therapy • Growth hormone therapy (GHT) <p>Note: Growth hormone is covered under the prescription drug benefit.</p> <p>Note: – We will only cover GHT when we preauthorize the treatment. Call (800) 698-0190 for preauthorization. We will ask you to submit information that establishes that the GHT is medically necessary. Ask us to authorize GHT before you begin treatment; otherwise we will only cover GHT services from the date you submit the information. If you do not ask or if we determine that GHT is not medically necessary, we will not cover the GHT or related services and supplies. See <i>Services requiring our prior approval</i> in Section 3.</p>	<p>In Network: 20% after deductible.</p> <p>Out of Network: 40% after deductible plus any difference between our allowable charge and the provider’s actual charge.</p>
<p><i>Not covered:</i></p> <p><i>Chelation Therapy</i></p>	<p><i>All charges.</i></p>
Physical and occupational therapies	You pay
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Up to 2 consecutive months per condition for physical and occupational therapy. • Level II Cardiac rehabilitation <p>Note: We only cover therapy to restore bodily function when there has been a total or partial loss or bodily function due to illness or injury.</p>	<p>In Network: 20% after deductible.</p> <p>Out of Network: 40% after deductible plus any difference between our allowable charge and the provider’s actual charge.</p>
<p><i>Not covered:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Long-term rehabilitative therapy</i> <p><i>Lifestyle improvement services such as physical fitness programs, health or weight loss clubs, or clinics</i></p>	<p><i>All charges.</i></p>
Speech therapy	You Pay
<p>Up to 2 consecutive months per condition.</p>	<p>In Network: 20% after deductible.</p> <p>Out of Network: 40% after deductible plus any difference between our allowable charge and the provider’s actual charge.</p>

Hearing services (testing, treatment, and supplies)	You Pay
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hearing testing for children through age 17 (see <i>Preventive care, children</i>) 	In Network: \$15 copay Out of Network: All charges
<i>Not covered:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All other hearing testing Hearing aids, testing and examinations for them 	<i>All charges.</i>
Vision services (testing, treatment, and supplies)	You pay
One complete exam per Calendar Year for eyeglasses (spectacles) or up to the spectacle exam amount for contact lens exam.	In Network: Nothing Out of Network: All charges
Vision services for aphakia patients and for treatment of a disease or injury, limited to services for the prescribing and fitting of eyeglasses or contact lenses for aphakia patients or soft contact lenses or scleral shells intended for use in the treatment of an eye disease or injury (one pair per calendar year)	In Network: 20% after deductible. Out of Network: 40% after deductible plus any difference between our allowable charge and the provider's actual charge.
<i>Not covered:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Examination, purchase, or fitting of eyeglasses or contact lenses except as specifically covered elsewhere. Eye exercises and orthoptics Radial keratotomy and other refractive surgery 	<i>All charges.</i>
Foot care	You Pay
Podiatry Services	In Network: 20% after deductible. Out of Network: 40% after deductible plus any difference between our allowable charge and the provider's actual charge.

Foot Care – continued on next page

Foot care <i>(continued)</i>	You Pay
<p>Routine foot care when you are under active treatment for a metabolic or peripheral vascular disease, such as diabetes.</p> <p>Note: See Orthopedic and prosthetic devices for information on podiatric shoe inserts.</p>	<p>In Network: \$15 copay</p> <p>Out of Network: 40% after deductible plus any difference between our allowable charge and the provider's actual charge.</p>
<p><i>Not covered:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Cutting, trimming or removal of corns, calluses, or the free edge of toenails, and similar routine treatment of conditions of the foot, except as stated above.</i> • <i>Treatment of weak, strained or flat feet or bunions or spurs; and of any instability, imbalance or subluxation of the foot (unless the treatment is by open cutting surgery).</i> 	<p><i>All charges.</i></p>
Orthopedic and prosthetic devices	You pay
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Artificial limbs and eyes; stump hose • Externally worn breast prostheses and surgical bras, including necessary replacements following a mastectomy • Internal prosthetic devices, such as artificial joints, pacemakers, cochlear implants, and surgically implanted breast implant following mastectomy. Note: Internal prosthetic devices are paid as hospital benefits; see Section 5(c) for payment information. Insertion of the device is paid as surgery; see Section 5(b) for coverage of the surgery to insert the device. • Corrective orthopedic appliances for non-dental treatment of temporomandibular joint (TMJ) pain dysfunction syndrome. 	<p>In Network: 20% after deductible</p> <p>Out of Network: 40% after deductible plus any difference between our allowable charge and the provider's actual charge.</p>
<p><i>Not covered:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Orthopedic and corrective shoes</i> • <i>Arch supports</i> • <i>Foot orthotics</i> • <i>Heel pads and heel cups</i> • <i>Lumbosacral supports</i> • <i>Corsets, trusses, elastic stockings, support hose, and other supportive devices</i> • <i>Prosthetic replacements provided more frequently than the products useful life as stated by the manufacturer.</i> 	<p><i>All charges.</i></p>

Durable medical equipment (DME)	You pay
<p>Rental or purchase at our option and the option to select appropriate new, used or refurbished DME, including repair and adjustment of DME prescribed by your Plan physician. Rental costs shall not exceed the allowable charge for the DME purchase. Coverage for oxygen units is limited to one stationary and one portable unit, based on medical necessity. Under this benefit we also cover:</p> <p>Wheelchairs; Crutches; Walkers; Nebulizers.</p>	<p>In Network: 20% after deductible.</p> <p>Out of Network: 40% after deductible plus any difference between our allowable charge and the provider's actual charge.</p>
<p><i>Not covered:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Commonly available batteries for durable medical equipment</i> • <i>Motorized equipment.</i> 	<p><i>All charges.</i></p>
Home health services	You Pay
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Home health care ordered by a Plan physician and provided by a registered nurse (R.N.), licensed practical nurse (L.P.N.), licensed vocational nurse (L.V.N.), or home health aide. • Services include oxygen therapy, intravenous therapy and medications. 	<p>In Network: 20% after deductible.</p> <p>Out of Network: 40% after deductible plus any difference between our allowable charge and the provider's actual charge.</p>
<p><i>Not covered:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Nursing care requested by, or for the convenience of, the patient or the patient's family;</i> • <i>Home care primarily for personal assistance that does not include a medical component and is not diagnostic, therapeutic, or rehabilitative.</i> 	<p><i>All charges.</i></p>
Chiropractic	You pay
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chiropractic Services from a doctor of chiropractic who deals with the relationship of the nervous system and the spinal column in the restoration and maintenance of health. 	<p>In Network: \$15 copay</p> <p>Out of Network: All charges</p>
Alternative treatments	You Pay
<p>No Benefit</p>	<p>All Charges</p>

Educational classes and programs	
<p>Diabetic Education, Supplies and Equipment Equipment and supplies including medical nutrition therapy. Diabetes self-management training and education provided by a licensed healthcare provider certified as a diabetic educator by the National Certification Board for Diabetic Educators. Coverage limited to persons newly diagnosed with diabetes, or persons requiring a change in diabetes therapy, persons with comorbidities, or persons whose diabetic condition is unstable. Note: Coverage is limited to 2 comprehensive sessions per lifetime, and up to 8 follow up visits per year.</p>	<p>In Network: 20% after deductible.</p> <p>Out of Network: 40% after deductible plus any difference between our allowable charge and the provider's actual charge.</p>
<p>Smoking Cessation-Up to \$300 per lifetime for smoking cessation drug products and up to \$200 per lifetime of contract for one smoking cessation program approved by AHP.</p>	<p>In Network: 20% after deductible.</p> <p>Out of Network: 40% after deductible plus any difference between our allowable charge and the provider's actual charge.</p>

Section 5(b) Surgical and anesthesia services provided by physicians and other health care professionals

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Here are some important things you should keep in mind about these benefits:

Please remember that all benefits are subject to the definitions, limitations, and exclusions in this brochure and are payable only when we determine they are medically necessary.

Plan physicians must provide or arrange your care.

The calendar year deductible is: \$500 per person (\$1000 per family). The calendar year deductible applies to almost all benefits in this Section. We added “(No deductible)” to show when the calendar year deductible does not apply.

Be sure to read Section 4, *Your costs for covered services*, for valuable information about how cost sharing works. Also read Section 9 about coordinating benefits with other coverage, including with Medicare.

The amounts listed below are for the charges billed by a physician or other health care professional for your surgical care. Look in Section 5(c) for charges associated with the facility (i.e. hospital, surgical center, etc.).

YOUR PHYSICIAN MUST GET PRECERTIFICATION OF SOME SURGICAL PROCEDURES. Please refer to the precertification information shown in Section 3 to be sure which services require precertification and identify which surgeries require precertification.

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Benefit Description	You pay After the calendar year deductible...
Note: The calendar year deductible applies to almost all benefits in this Section. We say “(No deductible)” when it does not apply.	

Surgical procedures	
<p>A comprehensive range of services, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operative procedures • Treatment of fractures, including casting • Normal pre- and post-operative care by the surgeon • Correction of amblyopia and strabismus • Endoscopy procedures • Biopsy procedures • Removal of tumors and cysts • Correction of congenital anomalies (see Reconstructive surgery) 	<p>In Network: 20% after deductible.</p> <p>Out of Network: 40% after deductible plus any difference between our allowable charge and the provider’s actual charge.</p>

Surgical procedures - continued on next page

Surgical procedures (<i>continued</i>)	You pay
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Surgical treatment of morbid obesity -- a condition in which an individual weighs 100 pounds or 100% over his or her normal weight according to current underwriting standards; eligible members must be age 18 or over. • Insertion of internal prosthetic devices. See 5(a) – Orthopedic and prosthetic devices for device coverage information • Voluntary sterilization (e.g., Tubal ligation, Vasectomy) • Treatment of burns <p>Note: Generally, we pay for internal prostheses (devices) according to where the procedure is done. For example, we pay Hospital benefits for a pacemaker and Surgery benefits for insertion of the pacemaker.</p>	<p>In Network: 20% after deductible.</p> <p>Out of Network: 40% after deductible plus any difference between our allowable charge and the provider’s actual charge.</p>
<p><i>Not covered:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Reversal of voluntary sterilization</i> • <i>Routine treatment of conditions of the foot; see Foot care</i> 	<p><i>All charges.</i></p>
<p>Reconstructive surgery</p>	<p>You pay</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Surgery to correct a functional defect • Surgery to correct a condition caused by injury or illness if: the condition produced a major effect on the member’s appearance and the condition can reasonably be expected to be corrected by such surgery • Surgery to correct a condition that existed at or from birth and is a significant deviation from the common form or norm. Examples of congenital anomalies are: protruding ear deformities; cleft lip; cleft palate; birth marks; webbed fingers; and webbed toes. • All stages of breast reconstruction surgery following a mastectomy, such as: surgery to produce a symmetrical appearance of breasts; treatment of any physical complications, such as lymphedemas; breast prostheses and surgical bras and replacements (see Prosthetic devices) <p>Note: If you need a mastectomy, you may choose to have the procedure performed on an inpatient basis and remain in the hospital up to 48 hours after the procedure.</p>	<p>In Network: 20% after deductible.</p> <p>Out of Network: 40% after deductible plus any difference between our allowable charge and the provider’s actual charge.</p>
<p><i>Not covered:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Cosmetic surgery – any surgical procedure (or any portion of a procedure) performed primarily to improve physical appearance through change in bodily form, except repair of accidental injury</i> • <i>Surgeries related to sex transformation</i> 	<p><i>All charges.</i></p>

Oral and maxillofacial surgery	You pay
<p>Oral surgical procedures, limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduction of fractures of the jaws or facial bones; • Surgical correction of cleft lip, cleft palate or severe functional malocclusion; • Removal of stones from salivary ducts; • Excision of leukoplakia or malignancies; • Excision of cysts and incision of abscesses when done as independent procedures; and • Other surgical procedures that do not involve the teeth or their supporting structures. 	<p>In Network: 20% after deductible.</p> <p>Out of Network: 40% after deductible plus any difference between our allowable charge and the provider's actual charge.</p>
<p><i>Not covered:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Oral implants and transplants</i> • <i>Procedures that involve the teeth or their supporting structures (such as the periodontal membrane, gingiva, and alveolar bone)</i> • <i>Dental Services, not specifically listed as Covered Services, including dental x-rays, shortening of the mandible or maxillae for cosmetic purposes.</i> 	<p><i>All charges.</i></p>
Organ/tissue transplants	You pay
<p>Limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cornea • Heart • Heart/lung • Kidney • Kidney/Pancreas • Liver • Lung: Single – Double • Pancreas • Allogeneic (donor) bone marrow transplants • Autologous bone marrow transplants (autologous stem cell and peripheral stem cell support) for the following conditions: acute lymphocytic or non-lymphocytic leukemia; advanced Hodgkin's lymphoma; advanced non-Hodgkin's lymphoma; advanced neuroblastoma; breast cancer; multiple myeloma; epithelial ovarian cancer; and testicular, mediastinal, retroperitoneal and ovarian germ cell tumors • Intestinal transplants (small intestine) and the small intestine with the liver or small intestine with multiple organs such as the liver, stomach, and pancreas <p>Note: We cover related medical and hospital expenses of the donor when we cover the recipient.</p>	<p>In Network: 20% after deductible.</p> <p>Out of Network: All charges.</p>

Organ/tissue transplants (<i>continued</i>)	You pay
<p>Medical expenses for the testing to identify a suitable donor, surgical extraction, storage and transportation costs incurred that are directly related to the donation of the organ used in an organ transplant procedure. The maximum benefit payable for organ procurement shall not exceed \$20,000 for each covered organ transplant procedure that is not covered by any other group health plan or coverage arrangement.</p>	<p>In Network: 20% after deductible.</p> <p>Out of Network: All charges</p>
<p>Necessary and reasonable transportation, lodging and meal expenses are covered benefits subject to <u>all</u> of the following conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expenses will be covered benefit if incurred for the confinement period during which the transplant occurs and the immediate inpatient post-operative care period, including expenses incurred for travel to the site of the covered transplant procedure. • Meal and Lodging expenses will be a covered benefit during the transplant confinement period and immediate post-operative care period up to a combined daily maximum of \$150 for the recipient, attendant, and if a bone marrow transplant procedure, the bone marrow transplant donor. • In no event shall the total of necessary and reasonable expenses exceed \$10,000 for each transplant • Coverage for transportation, lodging and meal expenses are per transplant procedure and are not an annual benefit. • Expense reimbursement is available only while the Organ Transplant Recipient is covered by AHP. 	<p>All charges in excess of \$150 per day and in excess of \$10,000 transplant limit.</p>
<p><i>Not covered:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Donor screening tests and donor search expenses, except those performed for the actual donor</i> • <i>Implants of artificial organs</i> • <i>Transplants not listed as covered</i> • <i>Expenses related to transplants of animal organs</i> 	<p><i>All charges.</i></p>

Anesthesia	You Pay
Professional services provided in – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hospital (inpatient) 	In Network: 20% after deductible. Out of Network: 40% after deductible plus any difference between our allowable charge and the provider’s actual charge.
Professional services provided in – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hospital outpatient department • Skilled nursing facility • Ambulatory surgical center • Office 	In Network: 20% after deductible. Out of Network: 40% after deductible plus any difference between our allowable charge and the provider’s actual charge.

Section 5(c) Services provided by a hospital or other facility, and ambulance services

Here are some important things you should keep in mind about these benefits:

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- Please remember that all benefits are subject to the definitions, limitations, and exclusions in this brochure and are payable only when we determine they are medically necessary.

- Plan physicians must provide or arrange your care and you must be hospitalized in a Plan facility.

In this Section, unlike Sections 5(a) and 5(b), the calendar year deductible applies to only a few benefits. In that case, we added “(calendar year deductible applies)”. The calendar year deductible is: \$500 per person (\$1000 per family).

- Be sure to read Section 4, *Your costs for covered services* for valuable information about how cost sharing works. Also read Section 9 about coordinating benefits with other coverage, including with Medicare.

- The amounts listed below are for the charges billed by the facility (i.e., hospital or surgical center) or ambulance service for your surgery or care. Any costs associated with the professional charge (i.e., physicians, etc.) are in Sections 5(a) or (b).

- **YOUR PHYSICIAN MUST GET PRECERTIFICATION OF HOSPITAL STAYS.** Please refer to Section 3 to be sure which services require precertification.

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Benefit Description	You pay
<p>Note: The calendar year deductible applies only when we say below: “(calendar year deductible applies)”.</p>	
<p>Inpatient hospital</p>	
<p>Room and board, such as</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ward, semiprivate, or intensive care accommodations; • General nursing care; and • Meals and special diets. <p>Note: If you want a private room when it is not medically necessary, you pay the additional charge above the semiprivate room rate.</p>	<p>In Network: \$100 per day copay to a maximum of \$300 per admission for unlimited days. No deductible.</p> <p>Out of Network: 40% after deductible plus any difference between our allowable charge and the provider’s actual charge.</p>
<p>Hospitalization for maternity care</p>	<p>In Network: \$100 copay per delivery</p> <p>Out of Network: 40% after deductible plus any difference between our allowable charge and the provider’s actual charge</p>
<p><i>Inpatient hospital - continued on next page.</i></p>	
<p>Inpatient hospital (continued) You pay</p>	

<p>Other hospital services and supplies, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operating, recovery, maternity, and other treatment rooms • Prescribed drugs and medicines • Diagnostic laboratory tests and X-rays • Administration of blood and blood products • Blood or blood plasma, if not donated or replaced • Dressings, splints, casts, and sterile tray services • Medical supplies and equipment, including oxygen • Anesthetics, including nurse anesthetist services • Take-home items • Medical supplies, appliances, medical equipment, and any covered items billed by a hospital for use at home (Note: calendar year deductible applies.) 	<p>Nothing</p>
<p><i>Not covered:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Custodial care • Non-covered facilities, such as nursing homes, schools • Personal comfort items, such as telephone, television, barber services, guest meals and beds • Private nursing care 	<p><i>All charges.</i></p>
<p>Outpatient hospital or ambulatory surgical center</p>	<p>You Pay</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operating, recovery, and other treatment rooms • Prescribed drugs and medicines • Diagnostic laboratory tests, X-rays, and pathology services • Administration of blood, blood plasma, and other biologicals • Blood and blood plasma, if not donated or replaced • Pre-surgical testing • Dressings, casts, and sterile tray services • Medical supplies, including oxygen • Anesthetics and anesthesia service <p>Note: – We cover hospital services and supplies related to dental procedures when necessitated by a non-dental physical impairment. We do not cover the dental procedures.</p>	<p>Calendar year deductible applies.</p> <p>In Network: 20% after deductible.</p> <p>Out of Network: 40% after deductible plus any difference between our allowable charge and the provider’s actual charge.</p>
<p><i>Not covered: The purchase of whole blood and blood components, unless such blood components are classified as drugs in the United States Pharmacopeia</i></p>	<p><i>All charges.</i></p>

Extended care benefits/Skilled nursing care facility benefits	You pay
<p><i>The following services are covered:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Skilled nursing care, whether provided in an inpatient skilled nursing unit, a skilled nursing facility, or in a home health care program. • Room and board in a skilled nursing facility. • Special diets in a skilled nursing facility, if specifically ordered. • 100 days per calendar year. <p>Note: Care must be approved by AHP in lieu of continued or anticipated hospitalization.</p>	<p>In Network: \$100 per day copay to a maximum of \$300 per admission for unlimited days. No deductible</p> <p>Out of Network: 40% after deductible plus any difference between our allowable charge and the provider's actual charge.</p>
<p><i>Not covered: Confinement in a nursing home for custodial, convalescent, intermediate level, or domiciliary care, rest cures or care, or services to assist in activities of daily living.</i></p>	<p><i>All charges.</i></p>
Hospice care	
<p>Coverage is provided when:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The member elects hospice care instead of traditional covered services; • The member has been diagnosed with a terminal disease and a life expectancy of six months or less; and • Hospice has been approved by AHP <p>The following services are covered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Admission to a hospice facility, hospital, skilled nursing care facility for room and board, supplies and services for pain management and other acute/chronic symptom management. • Part-time intermittent nursing care by a Registered Nurse (RN), Licensed Practical Nurse/Licensed Vocational Nurse (LPN/LVN), or home health aide for patient care up to 8 hours per day. • Social services under the direction of a participating provider. • Psychological and dietary counseling. <p>Note: Hospice care may be provided as inpatient or outpatient services with a combined benefit limit of 185 days.</p>	<p>Calendar year deductible applies</p> <p>In Network: 20% after deductible.</p> <p>Out of Network: 40% after deductible plus any difference between our allowable charge and the provider's actual charge.</p>
<p><i>Not covered: Independent nursing, homemaker services</i></p>	<p><i>All charges.</i></p>
Ambulance	You Pay
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local professional ambulance service when medically appropriate 	<p>Calendar year deductible applies</p> <p>In Network: 20% after deductible.</p> <p>Out of Network: 20% after deductible.</p>
<p>Not covered: Non-Emergency Travel, unless approved and arranged by AHP.</p>	<p><i>All Charges</i></p>

Section 5(d) Emergency services/accidents

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Here are some important things to keep in mind about these benefits:

Please remember that all benefits are subject to the definitions, limitations, and exclusions in this brochure and are payable only when we determine they are medically necessary.

The calendar year deductible is: \$500 per person (\$1000 per family). The calendar year deductible applies to almost all benefits in this Section. We added “(No deductible)” to show when the calendar year deductible does not apply.

Be sure to read Section 4, *Your costs for covered services*, for valuable information about how cost sharing works. Also read Section 9 about coordinating benefits with other coverage, including with Medicare.

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What is a medical emergency?

A medical emergency is the sudden and unexpected onset of a condition or an injury that you believe endangers your life or could result in serious injury or disability, and requires immediate medical or surgical care. Some problems are emergencies because, if not treated promptly, they might become more serious; examples include deep cuts and broken bones. Others are emergencies because they are potentially life-threatening, such as heart attacks, strokes, poisonings, gunshot wounds, or sudden inability to breathe. There are many other acute conditions that we may determine are medical emergencies – what they all have in common is the need for quick action.

What to do in case of emergency:

Emergencies within our service area: If an emergency condition arises, members should proceed to the nearest emergency facility. If the emergency condition is such that a member cannot go safely to the nearest participating emergency facility, then the member should seek care at the nearest emergency facility. An urgent care situation is a degree of illness or injury, which is less severe than an emergency condition, but requires prompt medical attention within twenty-four (24) hours. If an urgent care situation occurs, members should contact their primary care provider immediately and follow the primary care provider’s instructions.

Emergencies outside our service area: If an emergency occurs when traveling outside of AHP’s service area, members should go to the nearest emergency facility to receive care. The member or a designated relative or friend must notify AHP and the member’s primary care provider as soon as reasonably possible, and no later than 48 hours after physically or mentally able to do so. In-Network coverage will be provided for emergency conditions outside of the service area unless the member has traveled outside the service area for the purpose of receiving such treatment.

Benefit Description	You pay After the calendar year deductible...
Emergency within our service area	
Emergency care at a doctor’s office Emergency care at an urgent care center Emergency care as an outpatient or inpatient at a hospital, including doctors services	20% after deductible.
Emergency outside our service area	
Emergency care at a doctor’s office Emergency care at an urgent care center Emergency care as an outpatient or inpatient at a hospital, including doctor’s services	20% after deductible

<p><i>Not covered:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Elective care or non-emergency care</i> • <i>Emergency care provided outside the service area if the need for care could have been foreseen before leaving the service area.</i> 	<p><i>All charges.</i></p>
<p>Ambulance</p>	
<p>Professional ambulance service when medically appropriate. Note: See 5(c) for non-emergency service.</p>	<p>In Network: 20% after deductible.</p> <p>Out of Network: 20% after deductible.</p>
<p><i>Not covered: Non-emergency travel unless approved and arranged by AHP</i></p>	<p><i>All charges.</i></p>

Section 5(e) Mental health and substance abuse benefits

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When you get our approval for services and follow a treatment plan we approve, cost-sharing and limitations for Plan mental health and substance abuse benefits will be no greater than for similar benefits for other illnesses and conditions.

Here are some important things to keep in mind about these benefits:

Please remember that all benefits are subject to the definitions, limitations, and exclusions in this brochure and are payable only when we determine they are medically necessary. The calendar year deductible is: \$500 per person (\$1000 per family). The calendar year deductible applies to almost all benefits in this Section. We added “(No deductible)” to show when the calendar year deductible does not apply.

Be sure to read Section 4, *Your costs for covered services*, for valuable information about how cost sharing works. Also read Section 9 about coordinating benefits with other coverage, including with Medicare.

YOU MUST GET PREAUTHORIZATION OF THESE SERVICES. See the instructions after the benefits description below.

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Benefit Description	You pay After the calendar year deductible...
<p>Note: The calendar year deductible applies to almost all benefits in this Section. We say “(No deductible)” when it does not apply.</p>	
<p>Mental health and substance abuse benefits</p>	
<p>All diagnostic and treatment services recommended by a Plan provider and contained in a treatment plan that we approve. The treatment plan may include services, drugs, and supplies described elsewhere in this brochure.</p> <p>Note: Plan benefits are payable only when we determine the care is clinically appropriate to treat your condition and only when you receive the care as part of a treatment plan that we approve.</p>	<p>Your cost sharing responsibilities are no greater than for other illnesses or conditions.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Professional services, including individual or group therapy by providers such as psychiatrists, psychologists, or clinical social workers • Medication management 	<p>In Network: \$15 copay. No deductible.</p> <p>Out of Network: 40% after deductible plus any difference between our allowable charge and the provider’s actual charge.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diagnostic tests 	<p>In Network: 20% after deductible.</p> <p>Out of Network: 40% after deductible plus any difference between our allowable charge and the provider’s actual charge.</p>

Mental health and substance abuse benefits – continued on next page.

Mental health and substance abuse benefits (<i>continued</i>)	You pay
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Services provided by a hospital or other facility • Services in approved alternative care settings such as partial hospitalization, half-way house, residential treatment, full-day hospitalization, facility based intensive outpatient treatment 	<p>In Network: 20% after deductible</p> <p>Out of Network: 40% after deductible plus any difference between our allowable charge and the provider's actual charge.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chemical Dependency, Outpatient Treatment from a licensed or certified provider. 	<p>In Network: \$100 per day copay to a maximum of \$300 per admission for unlimited days. No deductible.</p> <p>Out of Network: 40% after deductible plus any difference between our allowable charge and the provider's actual charge.</p>
<p><i>Not covered: Services we have not approved.</i></p> <p><i>Note: OPM will base its review of disputes about treatment plans on the treatment plan's clinical appropriateness. OPM will generally not order us to pay or provide one clinically appropriate treatment plan in favor of another.</i></p>	<p><i>All charges.</i></p>
<p>Preauthorization</p>	<p>To be eligible to receive these benefits you must obtain a treatment plan and follow all the authorization processes found on page 11.</p>
<p>Limitation</p>	<p>We may limit your benefits if you do not obtain a treatment plan.</p>

Section 5(f) Prescription drug benefits

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Here are some important things to keep in mind about these benefits:

We cover prescribed drugs and medications, as described in the chart beginning on the next page.

All benefits are subject to the definitions, limitations and exclusions in this brochure and are payable only when we determine they are medically necessary.

The calendar year deductible does not apply to benefits in this Section.

Be sure to read Section 4, *Your costs for covered services*, for valuable information about how cost sharing works. Also read Section 9 about coordinating benefits with other coverage, including with Medicare.

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There are important features you should be aware of. These include:

- **Who can write your prescription.** A licensed physician or licensed dentist must write the prescription.
- **Where you can obtain them.** You must fill the prescription at a participating pharmacy, or by mail for a maintenance medication.
- **We use a formulary.** We cover non-formulary drugs prescribed by a Plan doctor. If your physician believes a name brand product is necessary or there is no generic available, your physician may prescribe a name brand drug from a formulary list. This list of name brand drugs is a preferred list of drugs that we selected to meet patient needs at a lower cost. To order a prescription drug brochure, call (888) 322-2115.
- **These are the dispensing limitations.** One co-payment is due each time a prescription is filled or refilled up to a thirty (30) day supply. Maintenance drugs obtained through a mail order pharmacy designated by the Plan, or through a participating pharmacy that has agreed to dispense a 90-day supply, may be dispensed with two co-payments for up to a ninety (90) day supply. A generic equivalent will be dispensed if it is available, unless your physician specifically requires a name brand. If you receive a name brand drug, when a Federally-approved generic drug is available, you have to pay the higher copay for the brand name drug.

Prescription drug benefits begin on the next page

Prescription drugs (*continued*)

- **Why use generic drugs?** Generic drugs offer a safe and economic way to meet your prescription drug needs. The generic name of a drug is its chemical name; the name brand is the name under which the manufacturer advertises and sells a drug. Under federal law, generic and name brand drugs must meet the same standards for safety, purity, strength, and effectiveness. A generic prescription costs you – and us – less than a name brand prescription.

When you do have to file a claim. Read section 7 regarding the procedure for filing a pharmacy claim.

Benefit Description	You pay
<p>Covered medications and supplies</p> <p>We cover the following medications and supplies prescribed by a Plan physician and obtained from a Plan pharmacy or through our mail order program:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drugs and medicines that by Federal law of the United States require a physician’s prescription for their purchase, except those listed as <i>Not covered</i>. • Insulin • Disposable needles and syringes for the administration of covered medications • Drugs for sexual dysfunction (see Prior authorization below) • Contraceptive drugs and devices 	<p>In Network: (30 day supply) Generic: \$10 copay Formulary/Preferred: \$20 copay Non-Formulary: \$35 copay or 50% of charges, whichever is greater.</p> <p>In Network: (90 day supply-mail order) Generic: \$20 copay Formulary/Preferred: \$40 copay Non-Formulary: \$70 copay or 50% of charges, whichever is greater.</p> <p>Out of Network: All Charges.</p> <p>Note: If there is no generic equivalent available, you will still have to pay the brand name copay.</p>
<p>Diabetic supplies and insulin</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A 30-day supply of diabetic needles, syringes, wipes, strips, and pump supplies; and • Either a 30-day supply or one 10-ml bottle, whichever is greater, of injectable insulin. <p>Note: Each of the above shall constitute a separate prescription “supply” for copay purposes, and together they constitute the maximum amount of diabetic treatment that may be dispensed at any one time.</p>	<p>In Network: (30 day supply) Generic: \$10 copay Formulary/Preferred: \$20 copay Non-Formulary: \$35 copay or 50% of charges, which ever is greater.</p> <p>In Network: (90 day supply-mail order) Generic: \$20 copay Formulary/Preferred: \$40 copay Non-Formulary: \$70 copay or 50% of charges, which ever is greater.</p> <p>Out of Network: All Charges</p>

<p>Birth Control Drugs and Devices including, but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IUDS • Implantable birth control devices, e.g., Norplant and Depo-Provera 	<p>In Network: (30 day supply) Generic: \$10 copay Formulary/Preferred: \$20 copay Non-Formulary: \$35 copay or 50% of charges, which ever is greater.</p> <p>In Network: (90 day supply-mail order) Generic: \$20 copay Formulary/Preferred: \$40 copay Non-Formulary: \$70 copay or 50% of charges, which ever is greater.</p> <p>Out of Net Work: All Charges</p>
<p><i>Not covered:</i></p> <p><i>Drugs and supplies for cosmetic purposes</i></p> <p><i>Drugs to enhance athletic performance</i></p> <p><i>Fertility drugs</i></p> <p><i>Drugs obtained at a non-Plan pharmacy</i></p> <p><i>Vitamins, nutrients and food supplements even if a physician prescribes or administers them</i></p> <p><i>Nonprescription medicines</i></p>	<p><i>All charges.</i></p>

Section 5(g) Special features

Feature	Description
Employee Assistance Program	Employee Assistance Program for individual and family problems that have a negative impact upon personal or work life. Benefits include up to three counseling sessions with a behavioral health professional per contract year, access to behavioral health professionals with a wide range of expertise in family, couples, individual, and substance abuse related services, and access to toll-free Referral Service line 24 hours/7 days a week.

Section 5(h) Dental benefits

Here are some important things to keep in mind about these benefits:

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Please remember that all benefits are subject to the definitions, limitations, and exclusions in this brochure and are payable only when we determine they are medically necessary. The calendar year deductible is: \$500 per person (\$1000 per family). The calendar year deductible applies to almost all benefits in this Section. We added “(No deductible)” to show when the calendar year deductible does not apply.

We cover hospitalization for dental procedures only when a non-dental physical impairment exists which makes hospitalization necessary to safeguard the health of the patient. See Section 5(c) for inpatient hospital benefits. We do not cover the dental procedure unless it is described below.

Be sure to read Section 4, *Your costs for covered services*, for valuable information about how cost sharing works. Also read Section 9 about coordinating benefits with other coverage, including with Medicare.

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Accidental injury benefit

We cover restorative services and supplies necessary to promptly repair (but not replace) sound natural teeth. The need for these services must result from an accidental injury.

You pay

In Network:
 \$15 per visit to a specialist
 20% after deductible for other covered services.

Out of Network:
 40% after deductible plus any difference between our allowable charge and the provider’s actual charge.

Dental benefits

We have no other dental benefits

Section 5(i) Point of Service benefits

Point of Service (POS) Benefits

Facts about this Plan's POS option

At your option, you may choose to obtain benefits covered by this Plan from non-Plan doctors and hospitals whenever you need care, except for the benefits listed below under “What is not covered.” Benefits not covered under Point of Service must either be received from or arranged by Plan doctors to be covered. When you obtain covered non-emergency medical treatment from a non-Plan doctor without a referral from a Plan doctor, you are subject to the deductibles, coinsurance and maximum benefit stated below.

What is covered

Most of the covered services described in Section 5 allow you to choose a non-participating provider, except those listed in “What is not covered.” When you choose non-participating providers, covered services provided by those providers are covered at the “out of network” level as described in Section 5. All covered services provided by a participating or in-network provider, are covered at the in-network benefit level.

Services do not need to be obtained within the Plan service area to be eligible for coverage under POS.

Precertification

Services received out-of-network are subject to the same precertification or prior approval requirements as described in Section 3. You do not need to obtain a referral from a Plan doctor prior to seeking a non-Plan doctor, but you or the non-Plan doctor must obtain prior approval before receiving any of the procedures listed in Section 3 as requiring prior approval. Failure to obtain prior approval may result in benefits being denied, however we will not deny coverage solely on the basis of lack of precertification to the extent that the health care services would have been covered had precertification been obtained.

Deductible

The plan deductible for POS benefits is \$1,500 for an individual and \$3,000 for a family.

Coinsurance

The coinsurance requirement for covered POS benefits is 40% of the Plan's allowable charge to be paid by you, and 60% to be paid by the Plan, after the deductible. You will also be responsible for any difference between our allowable charge and the non-participating provider's actual charge.

Maximum benefit

The catastrophic maximums you will have to pay for POS care is \$10,000 for an individual or a family. Out of pocket expenses under POS do not qualify for the Plan's in-network catastrophic maximum.

Hospital/extended care

When you use a non-participating hospital it is an out of network service, however, if you use a participating hospital you will receive in network benefits even if you use non-plan doctors.

Emergency benefits

True emergency care is always payable as an in-Plan benefit.

What is not covered

The following covered services do not have POS coverage:

- Adult Preventive Care
- Children Preventive Care
- Vision Examination for eyeglasses or contact lenses
- Chiropractic Services
- Organ/Tissue Transplants
- Prescription Drugs

How to obtain benefits

You may access covered POS benefits directly. You may also contact us and ask us to consider in-network benefits for out of network services that are medically necessary and not available within the Plan's network by calling Medical Management at 1-888-605-1331.

Section 6. General exclusions – things we don't cover

The exclusions in this section apply to all benefits. **Although we may list a specific service as a benefit, we will not cover it unless your Plan doctor determines it is medically necessary to prevent, diagnose, or treat your illness, disease, injury, or condition and we agree, as discussed under *Services requiring our prior approval* on page 11.**

We do not cover the following:

- Care by non-Plan providers except for authorized referrals or emergencies (see Emergency Benefits);
- Services, drugs, or supplies you receive while you are not enrolled in this Plan;
- Services, drugs, or supplies not medically necessary;
- Services, drugs, or supplies not required according to accepted standards of medical, dental, or psychiatric practice;
- Experimental or investigational procedures, treatments, drugs or devices;
- Services, drugs, or supplies related to abortions, except when the life of the mother would be endangered if the fetus were carried to term, or when the pregnancy is the result of an act of rape or incest;
- Services, drugs, or supplies related to sex transformations;
- Services, drugs, or supplies you receive from a provider or facility barred from the FEHB Program; or
- Services, drugs, or supplies you receive without charge while in active military service.

Section 7. Filing a claim for covered services

When you see Plan physicians, receive services at Plan hospitals and facilities, or obtain your prescription drugs at Plan pharmacies, you will not have to file claims. Just present your identification card and pay your copayment, coinsurance, or deductible.

You will only need to file a claim when you receive emergency services from non-Plan providers. Sometimes these providers bill us directly. Check with the provider. If you need to file the claim, here is the process:

Medical and hospital benefits

In most cases, providers and facilities file claims for you. Physicians must file on the form HCFA-1500, Health Insurance Claim Form. Your facility will file on the UB-92 form. For claims questions and assistance, call us at 888-322-2115.

When you must file a claim – such as for services you receive outside the Plan’s service area – submit it on the HCFA-1500 or a claim form that includes the information shown below. Bills and receipts should be itemized and show:

- Covered member’s name and ID number;
- Name and address of the physician or facility that provided the service or supply;
- Dates you received the services or supplies;
- Diagnosis;
- Type of each service or supply;
- The charge for each service or supply;
- A copy of the explanation of benefits, payments, or denial from any primary payer – such as the Medicare Summary Notice (MSN); and
- Receipts, if you paid for your services.

Submit your claims to: Avera Health Plans

3900 West Avera Drive, Suite 200

Sioux Falls, SD 57108-5721

Prescription drugs

Network pharmacies will usually submit your claims electronically for you. If you need to submit a claim on your own, contact Customer Service at (888) 322- 2115 to obtain a claim form.

When you file a claim form, you must include a receipt from the pharmacy showing the following:

- Name of the Drug;
- Amount Dispensed;
- Price you paid for the drug.

Submit your claims to: Avera Health Plans

3900 West Avera Drive, Suite 200

Sioux Falls, SD 57108-5721

Deadline for filing your claim

Send us all of the documents for your claim as soon as possible. You must submit the claim by December 31 of the year after the year you received the service, unless timely filing was prevented by administrative operations of Government or legal incapacity, provided the claim was submitted as soon as reasonably possible.

When we need more information

Please reply promptly when we ask for additional information. We may delay processing or deny your claim if you do not respond.

Section 8. The disputed claims process

Follow this Federal Employees Health Benefits Program disputed claims process if you disagree with our decision on your claim or request for services, drugs, or supplies – including a request for preauthorization/prior approval:

Step	Description
1	<p>Ask us in writing to reconsider our initial decision. You must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) Write to us within 6 months from the date of our decision; andb) Send your request to us at: Avera Health Plans Attn: Appeals Coordinator 3900 West Avera Drive, Suite 200 Sioux Falls, SD 57108-5721; andc) Include a statement about why you believe our initial decision was wrong, based on specific benefit provisions in this brochure; andd) Include copies of documents that support your claim, such as physicians' letters, operative reports, bills, medical records, and explanation of benefits (EOB) forms.
2	<p>We have 30 days from the date we receive your request to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) Pay the claim (or, if applicable, arrange for the health care provider to give you the care); orb) Write to you and maintain our denial – go to step 4; orc) Ask you or your provider for more information. If we ask your provider, we will send you a copy of our request—go to step 3.
3	<p>You or your provider must send the information so that we receive it within 60 days of our request. We will then decide within 30 more days.</p> <p>If we do not receive the information within 60 days, we will decide within 30 days of the date the information was due. We will base our decision on the information we already have.</p> <p>We will write to you with our decision.</p>
4	<p>If you do not agree with our decision, you may ask OPM to review it.</p> <p>You must write to OPM within:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">90 days after the date of our letter upholding our initial decision; or120 days after you first wrote to us – if we did not answer that request in some way within 30 days; or120 days after we asked for additional information. <p>Write to OPM at: Office of Personnel Management, Office of Insurance Programs, Contracts Division 2, 1900 E Street, NW, Washington, DC 20415-3620.</p>

The disputed claims process (*continued*)

Send OPM the following information:

A statement about why you believe our decision was wrong, based on specific benefit provisions in this brochure;

Copies of documents that support your claim, such as physicians' letters, operative reports, bills, medical records, and explanation of benefits (EOB) forms;

Copies of all letters you sent to us about the claim;

Copies of all letters we sent to you about the claim; and

Your daytime phone number and the best time to call.

Note: If you want OPM to review more than one claim, you must clearly identify which documents apply to which claim.

Note: You are the only person who has a right to file a disputed claim with OPM. Parties acting as your representative, such as medical providers, must include a copy of your specific written consent with the review request.

Note: The above deadlines may be extended if you show that you were unable to meet the deadline because of reasons beyond your control.

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OPM will review your disputed claim request and will use the information it collects from you and us to decide whether our decision is correct. OPM will send you a final decision within 60 days. There are no other administrative appeals.

If you do not agree with OPM's decision, your only recourse is to sue. If you decide to sue, you must file the suit against OPM in Federal court by December 31 of the third year after the year in which you received the disputed services, drugs, or supplies or from the year in which you were denied precertification or prior approval. This is the only deadline that may not be extended.

OPM may disclose the information it collects during the review process to support their disputed claim decision. This information will become part of the court record.

You may not sue until you have completed the disputed claims process. Further, Federal law governs your lawsuit, benefits, and payment of benefits. The Federal court will base its review on the record that was before OPM when OPM decided to uphold or overturn our decision. You may recover only the amount of benefits in dispute.

Note: **If you have a serious or life threatening condition** (one that may cause permanent loss of bodily functions or death if not treated as soon as possible), and

a) We haven't responded yet to your initial request for care or preauthorization/prior approval, then call us at 888-605-1331 and we will expedite our review; or

b) We denied your initial request for care or preauthorization/prior approval, then:

If we expedite our review and maintain our denial, we will inform OPM so that they can give your claim expedited treatment too, or

You may call OPM's Health Insurance Group 2 at 202/606-3818 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. eastern time.

Section 9. Coordinating benefits with other coverage

When you have other health coverage

You must tell us if you or a covered family member have coverage under another group health plan or have automobile insurance that pays health care expenses without regard to fault. This is called “double coverage”.

When you have double coverage, one plan normally pays its benefits in full as the primary payer and the other plan pays a reduced benefit as the secondary payer. We, like other insurers, determine which coverage is primary according to the National Association of Insurance Commissioners’ guidelines.

When we are the primary payer, we will pay the benefits described in this brochure.

When we are the secondary payer, we will determine our allowance. After the primary plan pays, we will pay what is left of our allowance, up to our regular benefit. We will not pay more than our allowance.

What is Medicare?

Medicare is a Health Insurance Program for:

- People 65 years of age or older.
- Some people with disabilities under 65 years of age.
- People with End-Stage Renal Disease (permanent kidney failure requiring dialysis or a transplant).

Medicare has two parts:

- Part A (Hospital Insurance). Most people do not have to pay for Part A. If you or your spouse worked for at least 10 years in Medicare-covered employment, you should be able to qualify for premium-free Part A insurance. (Someone who was a Federal employee on January 1, 1983 or since automatically qualifies.) Otherwise, if you are age 65 or older, you may be able to buy it. Contact 1-800-MEDICARE for more information.
- Part B (Medical Insurance). Most people pay monthly for Part B. Generally, Part B premiums are withheld from your monthly Social Security check or your retirement check.

• Should I enroll in Medicare?

The decision to enroll in Medicare is yours. We encourage you to apply for Medicare benefits 3 months before you turn age 65. It’s easy. Just call the Social Security Administration toll-free number 1-800-772-1213 to set up an appointment to apply. If you do not apply for one or both Parts of Medicare, you can still be covered under the FEHB Program.

If you can get premium-free Part A coverage, we advise you to enroll in it. Most Federal employees and annuitants are entitled to Medicare Part A at age 65 **without cost**. When you don’t have to pay premiums for Medicare Part A, it makes good sense to obtain the coverage. It can reduce your out-of-pocket expenses as well as costs to the FEHB, which can help keep FEHB premiums down.

Everyone is charged a premium for Medicare Part B coverage. The Social Security Administration can provide you with premium and benefit information. Review the information and decide if it makes sense for you to buy the Medicare Part B coverage.

If you are eligible for Medicare, you may have choices in how you get your health care. Medicare Advantage is the term used to describe the various private health plan choices available to Medicare beneficiaries. The information in the next few pages shows how we coordinate benefits with Medicare, depending on whether you are in the Original Medicare Plan or a private Medicare Advantage plan.

• The Original Medicare Plan (Part A or Part B)

The Original Medicare Plan (Original Medicare) is available everywhere in the United States. It is the way everyone used to get Medicare benefits and is the way most people get their Medicare Part A and Part B benefits now. You may go to any doctor, specialist, or hospital that accepts Medicare. The Original Medicare Plan pays its share and you pay your share. Some things are not covered under Original Medicare, such as most prescription drugs (but coverage through private prescription drug plans will be available starting in 2006).

When you are enrolled in Original Medicare along with this Plan, you still need to follow the

rules in this brochure for us to cover your care. This includes following procedures for precertification of procedures and treatments.

Claims process when you have the Original Medicare Plan – You probably will never have to file a claim form when you have both our Plan and the Original Medicare Plan.

- When we are the primary payer, we process the claim first.
- When Original Medicare is the primary payer, Medicare processes your claim first. In most cases, your claim will be coordinated automatically and we will then provide secondary benefits for covered charges. You will not need to do anything. To find out if you need to do something to file your claim, call us at 888-322-2115 or see our Web site at www.averahealthplans.com.

We do not waive any costs if the Original Medicare Plan is your primary payer.

Medicare always makes the final determination as to whether they are the primary payer. The following chart illustrates whether Medicare or this Plan should be the primary payer for you according to your employment status and other factors determined by Medicare. It is critical that you tell us if you or a covered family member has Medicare coverage so we can administer these requirements correctly.

Primary Payer Chart		
A. When you - or your covered spouse - are age 65 or over and have Medicare and you...	The primary payer for the individual with Medicare is...	
	Medicare	This Plan
1) Have FEHB coverage on your own as an active employee or through your spouse who is an active employee		✓
2) Have FEHB coverage on your own as an annuitant or through your spouse who is an annuitant	✓	
3) Are a reemployed annuitant with the Federal government and your position is excluded from the FEHB (your employing office will know if this is the case) and you are not covered under FEHB through your spouse under #1 above	✓	
4) Are a reemployed annuitant with the Federal government and your position is not excluded from the FEHB (your employing office will know if this is the case) and ... You have FEHB coverage on your own or through your spouse who is also an active employee You have FEHB coverage through your spouse who is an annuitant	✓	✓
5) Are a Federal judge who retired under title 28, U.S.C., or a Tax Court judge who retired under Section 7447 of title 26, U.S.C. (or if your covered spouse is this type of judge) and you are not covered under FEHB through your spouse under #1 above	✓	
6) Are enrolled in Part B only, regardless of your employment status	✓ for Part B services	✓ for other services
7) Are a former Federal employee receiving Workers' Compensation and the Office of Workers' Compensation Programs has determined that you are unable to return to duty	✓*	
B. When you or a covered family member...		
1) Have Medicare solely based on end stage renal disease (ESRD) and... • It is within the first 30 months of eligibility for or entitlement to Medicare due to ESRD (30-month coordination period)		✓
• It is beyond the 30-month coordination period and you or a family member are still entitled to Medicare due to ESRD	✓	
2) Become eligible for Medicare due to ESRD while already a Medicare beneficiary and... • This Plan was the primary payer before eligibility due to ESRD		✓ for 30-month coordination period
• Medicare was the primary payer before eligibility due to ESRD	✓	
C. When either you or a covered family member are eligible for Medicare solely due to disability and you...		
1) Have FEHB coverage on your own as an active employee or through a family member who is an active employee		✓
2) Have FEHB coverage on your own as an annuitant or through a family member who is an annuitant	✓	
D. When you are covered under the FEHB Spouse Equity provision as a former spouse	✓	

*Workers' Compensation is primary for claims related to your condition under Workers' Compensation

• **Medicare Advantage**

If you are eligible for Medicare, you may choose to enroll in and get your Medicare

benefits from a Medicare Advantage plan. These are health care choices (like HMOs) in some areas of the country. In most Medicare Advantage plans, you can only go to doctors, specialists, or hospitals that are part of the plan. Medicare Advantage plans provide all the benefits that Original Medicare covers. Some cover extras, like prescription drugs. To learn more about enrolling in a Medicare Advantage plan, contact Medicare at 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227) or at www.medicare.gov.

If you enroll in a Medicare Advantage plan, the following options are available to you:

This Plan and our Medicare Advantage plan: You may enroll in our Medicare Advantage plan and also remain enrolled in our FEHB plan.

This Plan and another plan's Medicare Advantage plan: You may enroll in another plan's Medicare Advantage plan and also remain enrolled in our FEHB plan. We will still provide benefits when your Medicare Advantage plan is primary, even out of the Medicare Advantage plan's network and/or service area (if you use our Plan providers), but we will not waive any of our copayments, coinsurance, or deductibles. If you enroll in a Medicare Advantage plan, tell us. We will need to know whether you are in the Original Medicare Plan or in a Medicare Advantage plan so we can correctly coordinate benefits with Medicare.

Suspended FEHB coverage to enroll in a Medicare Advantage plan: If you are an annuitant or former spouse, you can suspend your FEHB coverage to enroll in a Medicare Advantage plan, eliminating your FEHB premium. (OPM does not contribute to your Medicare Advantage plan premium.) For information on suspending your FEHB enrollment, contact your retirement office. If you later want to re-enroll in the FEHB Program, generally you may do so only at the next Open Season unless you involuntarily lose coverage or move out of the Medicare Advantage plan's service area.

TRICARE and CHAMPVA

TRICARE is the health care program for eligible dependents of military persons, and retirees of the military. TRICARE includes the CHAMPUS program. CHAMPVA provides health coverage to disabled Veterans and their eligible dependents. IF TRICARE or CHAMPVA and this Plan cover you, we pay first. See your TRICARE or CHAMPVA Health Benefits Advisor if you have questions about these programs.

Suspended FEHB coverage to enroll in TRICARE or CHAMPVA: If you are an annuitant or former spouse, you can suspend your FEHB coverage to enroll in one of these programs, eliminating your FEHB premium. (OPM does not contribute to any applicable plan premiums.) For information on suspending your FEHB enrollment, contact your retirement office. If you later want to re-enroll in the FEHB Program, generally you may do so only at the next Open Season unless you involuntarily lose coverage under the program.

Workers' Compensation

We do not cover services that:

- You need because of a workplace-related illness or injury that the Office of Workers' Compensation Programs (OWCP) or a similar Federal or State agency determines they must provide; or
- OWCP or a similar agency pays for through a third-party injury settlement or other similar proceeding that is based on a claim you filed under OWCP or similar laws.

Once OWCP or similar agency pays its maximum benefits for your treatment, we will cover your care.

Medicaid

When you have this Plan and Medicaid, we pay first.

Suspended FEHB coverage to enroll in Medicaid or a similar State-sponsored

program of medical assistance: If you are an annuitant or former spouse, you can suspend your FEHB coverage to enroll in one of these State programs, eliminating your FEHB premium. For information on suspending your FEHB enrollment, contact your retirement office. If you later want to re-enroll in the FEHB Program, generally you may do so only at the next Open Season unless you involuntarily lose coverage under the State program.

When other Government agencies are responsible for your care

We do not cover services and supplies when a local, State, or Federal government agency directly or indirectly pays for them.

When others are responsible for injuries

When you receive money to compensate you for medical or hospital care for injuries or illness caused by another person, you must reimburse us for any expenses we paid. However, we will cover the cost of treatment that exceeds the amount you received in the settlement.

If you do not seek damages you must agree to let us try. This is called subrogation. If you need more information, contact us for our subrogation procedures.

Section 10. Definitions of terms we use in this brochure

Calendar year	January 1 through December 31 of the same year. For new enrollees, the calendar year begins on the effective date of their enrollment and ends on December 31 of the same year.
Coinsurance	Coinsurance is the percentage of our allowance that you must pay for your care. You may also be responsible for additional amounts. See page 12.
Copayment	A copayment is a fixed amount of money you pay when you receive covered services. See page 12.
Covered services	Care we provide benefits for, as described in this brochure.
Custodial care	Patient care that is not medically required but is necessary when the patient is unable to perform self-care. Custodial care may involve medical or non-medical services that do not seek to cure, but are provided during periods when the patient's medical condition is not changing. Custodial care services such as assistance in the activities of daily living, normally do not require ongoing administration by medical personnel. Custodial care that lasts 90 days or more is sometimes known as Long term care.
Deductible	A deductible is a fixed amount of covered expenses you must incur for certain covered services and supplies before we start paying benefits for those services. See page 12.
Experimental or investigational services	Any health care service which: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• is not recognized in accordance with generally accepted medical standards as being safe and effective for treatment of the condition in question, regardless of whether the service is authorized by law or used in testing or other studies; or• requires approval by any governmental authority and such approval has not been granted prior to the service being performed.
Medical necessity	Covered health care services required to preserve and maintain your health status in accordance with the accepted standards of medical practice in the medical community in the area where services are rendered. Services or treatments are considered medically necessary and appropriate if they could not have been omitted without adversely affecting the patient's condition or the quality of medical care provided. Medically necessary care must: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• be consistent with generally accepted practice standards as determined by health care providers in the same or similar general specialty as typically manages the condition, procedure, or treatment at issue; and• help restore or maintain the patient's health; or• prevent deterioration of the patient's condition; or• prevent the reasonably likely onset of a health problem or detect a problem in the

beginning stages.

Plan allowance

Plan allowance is the amount we use to determine our payment and your coinsurance for covered services. Plans determine their allowances in different ways. The plan allowance is established by negotiating with our participating providers. Our participating providers accept the plan allowance as payment in full for covered services.

Us/We

Us and We refer to Avera Health Plans

You

You refers to the enrollee and each covered family member.

Section 11. FEHB Facts

Coverage information

- **No pre-existing condition limitation**

We will not refuse to cover the treatment of a condition you had before you enrolled in this Plan solely because you had the condition before you enrolled.

- **Where you can get information about enrolling in the FEHB Program**

See www.opm.gov/insure. Also, your employing or retirement office can answer your questions, and give you a *Guide to Federal Employees Health Benefits Plans*, brochures for other plans, and other materials you need to make an informed decision about your FEHB coverage. These materials tell you:

- When you may change your enrollment;
- How you can cover your family members;
- What happens when you transfer to another Federal agency, go on leave without pay, enter military service, or retire;
- When your enrollment ends; and
- When the next open season for enrollment begins.

We don't determine who is eligible for coverage and, in most cases, cannot change your enrollment status without information from your employing or retirement office.

- **Types of coverage available for you and your family**

Self Only coverage is for you alone. Self and Family coverage is for you, your spouse, and your unmarried dependent children under age 22, including any foster children or stepchildren your employing or retirement office authorizes coverage for. Under certain circumstances, you may also continue coverage for a disabled child 22 years of age or older who is incapable of self-support.

If you have a Self Only enrollment, you may change to a Self and Family enrollment if you marry, give birth, or add a child to your family. You may change your enrollment 31 days before to 60 days after that event. The Self and Family enrollment begins on the first day of the pay period in which the child is born or becomes an eligible family member. When you change to Self and Family because you marry, the change is effective on the first day of the pay period that begins after your employing office receives your enrollment form; benefits will not be available to your spouse until you marry.

Your employing or retirement office will **not** notify you when a family member is no longer eligible to receive benefits, nor will we. Please tell us immediately when you add or remove family members from your coverage for any reason, including divorce, or when your child under age 22 marries or turns 22.

If you or one of your family members is enrolled in one FEHB plan, that person may not be enrolled in or covered as a family member by another FEHB plan.

- **Children’s Equity Act**

OPM has implemented the Federal Employees Health Benefits Children’s Equity Act of 2000. This law mandates that you be enrolled for Self and Family coverage in the FEHB Program, if you are an employee subject to a court or administrative order requiring you to provide health benefits for your child(ren).

If this law applies to you, you must enroll for Self and Family coverage in a health plan that provides full benefits in the area where your children live or provide documentation to your employing office that you have obtained other health benefits coverage for your children. If you do not do so, your employing office will enroll you involuntarily as follows:

- If you have no FEHB coverage, your employing office will enroll you for Self and Family coverage in the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Service Benefit Plan’s Basic Option;
- If you have a Self Only enrollment in a fee-for-service plan or in an HMO that serves the area where your children live, your employing office will change your enrollment to Self and Family in the same option of the same plan; or
- If you are enrolled in an HMO that does not serve the area where the children live, your employing office will change your enrollment to Self and Family in the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Service Benefit Plan’s Basic Option.

As long as the court/administrative order is in effect, and you have at least one child identified in the order who is still eligible under the FEHB Program, you cannot cancel your enrollment, change to Self Only, or change to a plan that doesn’t serve the area in which your children live, unless you provide documentation that you have other coverage for the children. If the court/administrative order is still in effect when you retire, and you have at least one child still eligible for FEHB coverage, you must continue your FEHB coverage into retirement (if eligible) and cannot cancel your coverage, change to Self Only, or change to a plan that doesn’t serve the area in which your children live as long as the court/administrative order is in effect. Contact your employing office for further information.

- **When benefits and premiums start**

The benefits in this brochure are effective January 1. If you joined this Plan during Open Season, your coverage begins on the first day of your first pay period that starts on or after January 1. If you changed plans or plan options during Open Season and you receive care between January 1 and the effective date of coverage under your new plan or option, your claims will be paid according to the 2005 benefits of your old plan or option. However, if your old plan left the FEHB Program at the end of the year, you are covered under that plan’s 2004 benefits until the effective date of your coverage with your new plan. Annuitants’ coverage and premiums begin on January 1. If you joined at any other time during the year, your employing office will tell you the effective date of coverage.

- **When you retire**

When you retire, you can usually stay in the FEHB Program. Generally, you must have been enrolled in the FEHB Program for the last five years of your Federal service. If you do not meet this requirement, you may be eligible for other forms of coverage, such as Temporary Continuation of Coverage (TCC).

When you lose benefits

- **When FEHB coverage ends**

You will receive an additional 31 days of coverage, for no additional premium, when:

- Your enrollment ends, unless you cancel your enrollment, or
- You are a family member no longer eligible for coverage.

You may be eligible for spouse equity coverage or Temporary Continuation of Coverage (TCC), or a conversion policy (a non-FEHB individual policy.)

- **Spouse equity coverage**

If you are divorced from a Federal employee or annuitant, you may not continue to get benefits under your former spouse’s enrollment. This is the case even when the court has ordered your former spouse to provide health coverage to you. But, you may be eligible for your own FEHB coverage under the spouse equity law or Temporary Continuation of Coverage (TCC). If you are recently divorced or are anticipating a divorce, contact your ex-spouse’s employing or retirement office to get RI 70-5, the *Guide To Federal Employees Health Benefits Plans for Temporary Continuation of Coverage and Former Spouse Enrollees*, or other information about your coverage choices. You can also download the guide from OPM’s Web site, www.opm.gov/insure.

- **Temporary Continuation of Coverage (TCC)**

If you leave Federal service, or if you lose coverage because you no longer qualify as a family member, you may be eligible for Temporary Continuation of Coverage (TCC). For example, you can receive TCC if you are not able to continue your FEHB enrollment after you retire, if you lose your Federal job, if you are a covered dependent child and you turn 22 or marry, etc.

You may not elect TCC if you are fired from your Federal job due to gross misconduct.

Enrolling in TCC. Get the RI 79-27, which describes TCC, and the RI 70-5, the *Guide to Federal Employees Health Benefits Plans for Temporary Continuation of Coverage and Former Spouse Enrollees*, from your employing or retirement office or from www.opm.gov/insure. It explains what you have to do to enroll.

- **Converting to individual coverage**

You may convert to a non-FEHB individual policy if:

 - Your coverage under TCC or the spouse equity law ends (If you canceled your coverage or did not pay your premium, you cannot convert);
 - You decided not to receive coverage under TCC or the spouse equity law; or
 - You are not eligible for coverage under TCC or the spouse equity law.

If you leave Federal service, your employing office will notify you of your right to convert. You must apply in writing to us within 31 days after you receive this notice. However, if you are a family member who is losing coverage, the employing or retirement office will **not** notify you. You must apply in writing to us within 31 days after you are no longer eligible for coverage.

Your benefits and rates will differ from those under the FEHB Program; however, you will not have to answer questions about your health, and we will not impose a waiting period or limit your coverage due to pre-existing conditions.

- **Getting a Certificate of Group Health Plan Coverage**

The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) is a Federal law that offers limited Federal protections for health coverage availability and continuity to people who lose employer group coverage. If you leave the FEHB Program, we will give you a Certificate of Group Health Plan Coverage that indicates how long you have been enrolled with us. You can use this certificate when getting health insurance or other health care coverage. Your new plan must reduce or eliminate waiting periods, limitations, or exclusions for health related conditions based on the information in the certificate, as long as you enroll within 63 days of losing coverage under this Plan. If you have been enrolled with us for less than 12 months, but were previously enrolled in other FEHB plans, you may also request a certificate from those plans.

For more information, get OPM pamphlet RI 79-27, *Temporary Continuation of Coverage (TCC) under the FEHB Program*. See also the FEHB Web site at www.opm.gov/insure/health; refer to the “TCC and HIPAA” frequently asked questions. These highlight HIPAA rules, such as the requirement that Federal employees must exhaust any TCC eligibility as one condition for guaranteed access to individual health coverage under HIPAA, and information about Federal and State agencies you can contact for more information.

Section 12. Two Federal Programs complement FEHB benefits

Important information

OPM wants to make sure you are aware of two Federal programs that complement the FEHB Program. First, the **Federal Flexible Spending Account (FSA) Program**, also known as **FSAFEDS**, lets you set aside pre-tax money to pay for health and dependent care expenses. The result can be a discount of 20% to more than 40% on services you routinely pay for out-of-pocket. Second, the **Federal Long Term Care Insurance Program (FLTCIP)** helps cover long term care costs, which are not covered under the FEHB.

The Federal Flexible Spending Account Program – *FSAFEDS*

• What is an FSA?

It is a tax-favored benefit that allows you to set aside pre-tax money from your paychecks to pay for a variety of eligible expenses. *By using an FSA, you can reduce your taxes while paying for services you would have to pay for anyway, producing a discount that can be over 40%.*

There are two types of FSAs offered by FSAFEDS:

Health Care Flexible Spending Account (HCFSA)

- Covers eligible health care expenses not reimbursed by this Plan, or any other medical, dental, or vision care plan you or your dependents may have.
- Eligible dependents for this account include anyone you claim on your Federal Income Tax return as a qualified dependent under the U.S. Internal Revenue Service (IRS) definition and/or with whom you jointly file your Federal Income Tax return, even if you don't have self and family health benefits coverage. *Note:* The IRS has a broader definition of a "family member" than is used under the FEHB Program to provide benefits by your FEHB Plan.
- The maximum annual amount that can be allotted for the HCFSA is \$4,000. *Note:* The Federal workforce includes a number of employees married to each other. If each spouse/employee is eligible for FEHB coverage, both may enroll for a HCFSA up to the maximum of \$4,000 each (\$8,000 total). Both are covered under each other's HCFSA. The minimum annual amount is \$250.

Dependent Care Flexible Spending Account (DCFSA)

- Covers eligible dependent care expenses incurred so you, and your spouse, if married, can work, look for work, or attend school full-time.
- Qualifying dependents for this account include your dependent children under age 13, or any person of any age whom you claim as a dependent on your Federal Income Tax return (and who is mentally or physically incapable of self care).
- The maximum annual amount that can be allotted for the DCFSA is \$5,000. The minimum annual amount is \$250. *Note:* The IRS limits contributions to a DCFSA. For single taxpayers and taxpayers filing a joint return, the maximum is \$5,000 per year. For taxpayers who file their taxes separately with a spouse, the maximum is \$2,500 per year. The limit includes any child care subsidy you may receive.

• Enroll during Open Season

You **must make an election** to enroll in an FSA during the 2005 FEHB Open Season. Even if you enrolled during 2004, you must make a new election to continue participating in 2005. Enrollment is easy!

- **Online:** visit www.FSAFEDS.com and click on **Enroll**.

- Telephone: call an FSAFEDS Benefits Counselor toll-free at 1-877-FSAFEDS (372-3337), Monday through Friday, from 9 a.m. until 9 p.m., Eastern Time. TTY: 1-800-952-0450.

What is SHPS?

SHPS is a third-party administrator hired by OPM to manage the FSAFEDS Program. SHPS is the largest FSA administrator in the nation and is responsible for enrollment, claims processing, customer service, and day-to-day operations of FSAFEDS.

Who is eligible to enroll?

If you are a Federal employee eligible for FEHB – even if you’re not enrolled in FEHB – you can choose to participate in either, or both, of the FSAs. *However, if you enroll in a High Deductible Health Plan (HDHP) with a Health Savings Account (HSA), you are not eligible to participate in an HCFSA.*

Almost all Federal employees are eligible to enroll for a DCFSA. The only exception is intermittent (also called “when actually employed” [WAE]) employees expected to work fewer than 180 days during the year.

Note: FSAFEDS is the FSA Program established for all Executive Branch employees and Legislative Branch employees whose employers have signed on to participate. Under IRS law, FSAs are not available to annuitants. Also, the U.S. Postal Service and the Judicial Branch, among others, have their own plans with slightly different rules. However, the advantages of having an FSA are the same regardless of the agency for which you work.

• How much should I contribute to my FSA?

Plan carefully when deciding how much to contribute to an FSA. Because of the tax benefits of an FSA provides, the IRS places strict guidelines on how the money can be used. Under current IRS tax rules, you are required to forfeit any money for which you did not incur an eligible expense under your FSA account(s) during the Plan Year. This is known as the “use-it-or-lose-it” rule. You will have until April 30, following the end of the Plan Year to submit claims for your eligible expenses incurred from January 1 through December 31. For example if you enroll in FSAFEDS for the 2005 Plan Year, you will have until April 30, 2006 to submit claims for eligible expenses.

The FSAFEDS Calculator at www.FSAFEDS.com will help you plan your FSA allocations and provide an estimate of your tax savings based on your individual situation.

• What can my HCFSA pay for?

Every FEHB plan includes cost sharing features, such as deductibles you must meet before the Plan provides benefits, coinsurance or copayments that you pay when you and the Plan share costs, and medical services and supplies that are not covered by the Plan and for which you must pay. These out-of-pocket costs are summarized on page 60 and detailed throughout this brochure. Your HCFSA will reimburse you when those costs are for qualified medical care that you, your spouse and/or your dependents receive that is NOT covered or reimbursed by this FEHB Plan or any other coverage that you have.

Under this plan, typical out-of-pocket expenses include: hospital copays, physician office copays, deductibles, drug copays, dental services, over the counter drugs or cosmetic services.

The IRS governs expenses reimbursable by a HCFSA. See Publication 502 for a comprehensive list of tax-deductible medical expenses. **Note: While you will see insurance premiums listed in Publication 502, they are NOT a reimbursable expense for FSA purposes.** Publication 502 can be found on the IRS Web site at <http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p502.pdf>. The FSAFEDS Web site also has a comprehensive list of eligible expenses at www.FSAFEDS.com/fsafeds/eligibleexpenses.asp. If you do not see your service or expense listed please call an FSAFEDS Benefits Counselor at 1-877-FSAFEDS (372-3337), who will be able to answer your specific questions.

• Tax savings with an FSA

An FSA lets you allot money for eligible expenses *before* your agency deducts taxes from your paycheck. This means the amount of income that your taxes are based on will be lower, so your tax liability will be less. Without an FSA, you would still pay for these expenses, but you would do so using money remaining in your paycheck after Federal (and often state and local) taxes are deducted. The following chart illustrates a typical tax savings example:

Annual Tax Savings Example	With FSA	Without FSA
If your taxable income is:	\$50,000	\$50,000
And you deposit this amount into an FSA:	\$2,000	-\$0-
Your taxable income is now:	\$48,000	\$50,000
Subtract Federal & Social Security taxes:	\$13,807	\$14,383
If you spend after-tax dollars for expenses:	-\$0-	\$2,000
Your real spendable income is:	\$34,193	\$33,617
Your tax savings:	\$576	-\$0-

Note: This example is intended to demonstrate a typical tax savings based on 27% Federal and 7.65% FICA taxes. Actual savings will vary based upon the retirement system in which you are enrolled (CSRS or FERS), your state of residence, and your individual tax situation. In this example, the individual received \$2,000 in services for \$1,424 - a discount of almost 36%! You may also wish to consult a tax professional for more information on the tax implications of an FSA.

- **Tax credits and deductions**

You *cannot* claim expenses on your Federal income tax return if you receive reimbursement for them from your HCFSA or DCFSA. Below are some guidelines that may help you decide whether to participate in FSAFEDS.

Health care expenses

The HCFSA is Federal Income Tax-free from the first dollar. In addition, you may be reimbursed from your HCFSA at any time during the year for expenses up to the annual amount you've elected to contribute.

Only health care expenses exceeding 7.5% of your adjusted gross income are eligible to be deducted on your Federal Income Tax return. Using the example shown above, only health care expenses exceeding \$3,750 (7.5% of \$50,000) would be eligible to be deducted on your Federal Income Tax return. In addition, money set aside through an HCFSA is also exempt from FICA taxes. This exemption is not available on your Federal Income Tax return.

Paperless Reimbursement – This plan participates in the FSAFEDS paperless reimbursement program. When you enroll for your HCFSA, you will have the opportunity to enroll for paperless reimbursement. If you do, we will send FSAFEDS the information they need to reimburse you for your out-of-pocket costs so you can avoid filing paper claims.

Dependent care expenses

The DCFSA generally allows many families to save more than they would with the Federal tax credit for dependent care expenses. Note that you may only be reimbursed from the DCFSA up to your current account balance. If you file a claim for more than your current balance, it will be held until additional payroll allotments have been added to your account.

Visit www.fsafeds.com and download the [Dependent Care Tax Credit Worksheet](#) from the Forms and Literature page to help you determine what is best for your situation. You may also wish to consult a tax professional for more details.

- **Does it cost me anything to participate in FSAFEDS?**

No. Section 1127 of the National Defense Authorization Act (Public Law 108-136) requires agencies that offer FSAFEDS to employees to cover the administrative fee(s) on behalf of their employees. However, remember that participating in FSAFEDS can cost you money if you don't spend your entire account balance by the end of the Plan Year, resulting in the forfeiture of funds remaining in your account (the IRS "use-it-or-lose-it" rule).

- **Contact us**

To learn more or to enroll, please visit the **FSAFEDS Web site** at www.fsafeds.com, or contact SHPS directly via email or by phone. FSAFEDS Benefits Counselors are available Monday through Friday, from 9:00 a.m. until 9:00 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday.

- E-mail: fsafeds@shps.net
- Telephone: 1-877-FSAFEDS (1-877-372-3337)
- TTY: 1-800-952-0450

The Federal Long Term Care Insurance Program

- **It's important protection** Why should you consider applying for coverage under the Federal Long Term Care Insurance Program (FLTCIP)?
 - **FEHB plans do not cover the cost of long term care.** Also called “custodial care,” long term care is help you receive to perform activities of daily living – such as bathing or dressing yourself - or supervision you receive because of a severe cognitive impairment. The need for long term care can strike anyone at any age and the cost of care can be substantial.
 - **The Federal Long Term Care Insurance Program can help protect you from the potentially high cost of long term care.** This coverage gives you options regarding the type of care you receive and where you receive it. With FLTCIP coverage, you won't have to worry about relying on your loved ones to provide or pay for your care.
 - **It's to your advantage to apply sooner rather than later. In order to qualify for coverage under the FLTCIP,** you must apply and pass a medical screening (called underwriting). Certain medical conditions, or combinations of conditions, will prevent some people from being approved for coverage. By applying while you're in good health, you could avoid the risk of having a future change in your health disqualify you from obtaining coverage. Also, the younger you are when you apply, the lower your premiums.
 - **You don't have to wait for an open season to apply.** The Federal Long Term Care Insurance Program accepts applications from eligible persons at any time. You will have to complete a full underwriting application, which asks a number of questions about your health. However, if you are a new or newly eligible employee, you (and your spouse, if applicable) have a limited opportunity to apply using the abbreviated underwriting application, which asks fewer questions. Newly married spouses of employees also have a limited opportunity to apply using abbreviated underwriting.
 - **Qualified relatives are also eligible to apply.** Qualified relatives include spouses and adult children of employees and annuitants, and parents, parents-in-law, and stepparents of employees.
- **To find out more and to request an application** Call 1-800-LTC-FEDS (1-800-582-3337) (TTY 1-800-843-3557) or visit www.ltcfeds.com.

Summary of benefits for the *Avera Health Plans - 2005*

- **Do not rely on this chart alone.** All benefits are provided in full unless indicated and are subject to the definitions, limitations, and exclusions in this brochure. On this page we summarize specific expenses we cover; for more detail, look inside.
- If you want to enroll or change your enrollment in this Plan, be sure to put the correct enrollment code from the cover on your enrollment form.
- We only cover services provided or arranged by Plan physicians, except in emergencies.
- Below, an asterisk (*) means the item is subject to the \$500 calendar year deductible.

Benefits	You pay	Page
Medical services provided by physicians: • Diagnostic and treatment services provided in the office	Office visit copay: \$10 primary care; \$15 specialist	15
Services provided by a hospital: • Inpatient	\$100 per day to a maximum of \$300 per admission copay 20% of allowed charge after deductible	30
• Outpatient		31
Emergency benefits • In-area	20% of allowed charge after deductible	33
• Out-of-area	20% of allowed charge after deductible	34
Mental health and substance abuse treatment	In Network: \$15 copay. No deductible. Out of Network: 40% after deductible plus any difference between our allowable charge and the provider's actual charge.	35
Prescription drugs	\$10 for a 30 day supply of generic drugs \$20 for a 30 day supply of formulary drugs \$35 or 50 % of charges whichever is higher for a 30 day supply of non-formulary drugs \$20 for a 90 day mail order supply of generics \$40 for a 90 day mail order supply of formulary drugs \$70 or 50 % of charges whichever is higher for a 90 day mail order supply of non-formulary drugs	37
Dental care	No benefit	41
Vision care	One routine vision exam per year with a participating provider (eyeglass exam only)	21
Special features: Employee Assistance Program		40
Point of Service benefits – Yes		42
Protection against catastrophic costs (your catastrophic protection out-of-pocket maximum)	Nothing after \$1,500/Self Only or \$3,000/Family enrollment per year Some costs do not count toward this protection	12

2005 Rate Information for Avera Health Plans

Non-Postal rates apply to most non-Postal employees. If you are in a special enrollment category, refer to the FEHB Guide for that category or contact the agency that maintains your health benefits enrollment.

Postal rates apply to career Postal Service employees. Most employees should refer to the FEHB Guide for United States Postal Service Employees, RI 70-2. Different postal rates apply and a special FEHB guide is published for Postal Service Inspectors and Office of Inspector General (OIG) employees (see RI 70-2IN).

Postal rates do not apply to non-career postal employees, postal retirees, or associate members of any postal employee organization who are not career postal employees. Refer to the applicable FEHB Guide.

Type of Enrollment	Code	<i>Non-Postal Premium</i>				<i>Postal Premium</i>	
		<u>Biweekly</u>		<u>Monthly</u>		<u>Biweekly</u>	
		Gov't Share	Your Share	Gov't Share	Your Share	USPS Share	Your Share
Self Only	AV1	\$131.08	\$63.66	\$284.01	\$137.93	\$154.74	\$40.00
Self & Family	AV2	\$298.23	\$156.55	\$646.17	\$339.19	\$352.08	\$102.70