PARTNERS National Health Plans of North Carolina, Inc.

http://www.partnershealth.com

PARTNERS HEALTH PLANS
The Art of Health Care

2001

A Health Maintenance Organization

Serving: *Most of North Carolina*
Southwest Virginia
Upstate South Carolina

Enrollment in this Plan is limited; see page 5 for requirements.

This Plan has Excellent Accreditation from the NCQA. See the 2001 Guide for more information on NCQA.

Enrollment codes for this Plan:

EQ1 Self Only
EQ2 Self and Family

Authorized for distribution by the:

OPM
United States
Office of Personnel Management
Retirement and Insurance Service
http://www.opm.gov/insure

FEHB
Federal Employees
Health Benefits Program

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Introduction

PARTNERS National Health Plans of North Carolina, Inc.
2085 Frontis Plaza Boulevard
Winston-Salem, NC 27103

This brochure describes the benefits of PARTNERS National Health Plans of North Carolina, Inc. under our contract (CS 2650) with the Office of Personnel Management (OPM), as authorized by the Federal Employees Health Benefits law. This brochure is the official statement of benefits. No oral statement can modify or otherwise affect the benefits, limitations, and exclusions of this brochure.

If you are enrolled in this Plan, you are entitled to the benefits described in this brochure. If you are enrolled for 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, 2001, unless those benefits are also shown in this brochure.

OPM negotiates benefits and rates with each plan annually. Benefit changes are effective January 1, 2001, and are summarized on page 6. Rates are shown at the end of this brochure.

Plain Language

The President and Vice President are making the Government's communication more responsive, accessible, and understandable to the public by requiring agencies to use plain language. In response, a team of health plan representatives and OPM staff worked cooperatively to make this brochure clearer. Except for necessary technical terms, we use common words. "You" means the enrollee or family member; "we" means PARTNERS National Health Plans of North Carolina, Inc.

The plain language team reorganized the brochure and the way we describe our benefits. When you compare this Plan with other FEHB plans, you will find that the brochures have the same format and similar information to make comparisons easier.

If you have comments or suggestions about how to improve this brochure, let us know. Visit OPM's "Rate Us" feedback area at www.opm.gov/insure or e-mail us at fehbwebcomments@opm.gov or write to OPM at Insurance Planning and Evaluation Division, P.O. Box 436, Washington, DC 20044-0436.

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.

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 only pay the copayments and coinsurance 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.

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.

Who provides my health care?

PARTNERS National Health Plans of North Carolina is an individual practice association (IPA) model HMO with more than 7,200 physicians, including 2,814 primary care physicians and 89 hospitals and other medical services providing health care for its members in North Carolina, South Carolina, and Virginia. PARTNERS members receive medical care from their individual physicians who practice out of their own offices.

Patients' Bill of Rights

OPM requires that all FEHB Plans comply with the Patients' Bill of Rights, recommended by the President's Advisory Commission on Consumer Protection and Quality in the Health Care Industry. You may get information about us, our networks, providers, and facilities. OPM's FEHB website (www.opm.gov/insure) lists the specific types of information that we must make available to you.

If you want more information about us, call Customer Services at 800-942-5695, write to PARTNERS National Health Plans of North Carolina, Inc., 2085 Frontis Plaza Boulevard, Winston-Salem, NC 27103 or visit our website at www.partnershealth.com.

Service Area

To enroll with us, you must live or work in our service area. This is where our providers practice. Our service area includes most of North Carolina, southwest Virginia, and upstate South Carolina (all zip codes in these counties have a Plan primary care physician within 25 miles):

North Carolina: Alamance, Alleghany, Alexander, Anson, Ashe, Avery, Buncombe, Burke, Cabarrus, Caldwell, Caswell, Catawba, Chatham, Cleveland, Cumberland, Davidson, Davie, Durham, Forsyth, Franklin, Gaston, Granville, Guilford, Harnett, Henderson, Iredell, Johnston, Lee, Lincoln, Macon, McDowell, Mecklenburg, Montgomery, Nash, Orange, Person, Polk, Randolph, Richmond, Rockingham, Rowan, Rutherford, Scotland, Stanly, Stokes, Surry, Union, Vance, Wake, Watauga, Wilkes, and Yadkin Counties.

Virginia: Bedford, Botetourt, Carroll, Floyd, Franklin, Giles, Grayson, Henry, Montgomery, Patrick, Pittsylvania, Pulaski, Roanoke, Rockbridge and Wythe Counties.

South Carolina: Cherokee, Chester, Greenville, Lancaster, Richland, Spartanburg and York Counties.

You may also enroll with us if you live in the following places (a portion of the zip codes in these counties have a Plan primary care physician within 25 miles):

North Carolina: Clay, Haywood, Hoke, Jackson, Madison, Martin, Mitchell, Moore, Swain, Transylvania and Yancey Counties.

Virginia: Campbell and Craig Counties.

South Carolina: Pickens County.

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. We will not pay for any other health care services.

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 2001

Program-wide changes

- The plain language team reorganized the brochure and the way we describe our benefits. We hope this will make it easier for you to compare plans.
- This year, the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program is implementing network mental health and substance abuse parity. This means that your coverage for mental health, substance abuse, medical, surgical, and hospital services from providers in our plan network will be the same with regard to deductibles, coinsurance, copays, and day and visit limitations when you follow a treatment plan that we approve. Previously, we had shorter day or visit limitations on mental health and substance abuse services than we did on services to treat physical illness, injury, or disease.
- Many healthcare organizations have turned their attention this past year to improving healthcare quality and patient safety. OPM asked all FEHB plans to join them in this effort. You can find specific information on our patient safety activities by calling 800-942-5695, **or** checking our website www.partnershealth.com. You can find out more about patient safety on the OPM website, www.opm.gov/insure. To improve your healthcare, take these five steps:

  - Speak up if you have questions or concerns.
  - Keep a list of all the medicines you take.
  - Make sure you get the results of any test or procedure.
  - Talk with your doctor and health care team about your options if you need hospital care.
  - Make sure you understand what will happen if you need surgery.

- We clarified the language to show that anyone who needs a mastectomy may choose to have the procedure performed on an inpatient basis and remain in the hospital up to 48 hours after the procedure. Previously, the language referenced only women.

Changes to this Plan

- Your share of the non-Postal premium will increase by 19.5% for Self Only or 17.8% for Self and Family.
- This Plan will cover custom made foot orthotics which are transferable from shoe to shoe and when prescribed by a Plan podiatrist or orthopedic surgeon. The member will pay 20% of charges. One pair of replacements will be covered every 12 month period up to a maximum Plan payment of $250. Over the counter foot orthotics will not be covered.

Section 3. How you get care

Identification cards

We will send you two identification (ID) cards 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 800-942-5695.

Where you get covered care

You get care from "Plan providers" and "Plan facilities". You will only pay copayments and/or coinsurance, and you normally won't have to submit claims to us unless you receive emergency services from a provider who doesn't contract with us. If you need to file a claim, please

send us all of the documents for your claim as soon as possible. You must submit claims within 180 days of obtaining the service. Either OPM or we can extend this deadline if you show that circumstances beyond your control prevented you from filing on time.

- **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 website.

- **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 website.

What you must do to get 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. You must fill out the Federal Employee Physician Choice Card in your enrollment packet or simply call Customer Service at 800-942-5695 to select a primary care physician.

- **Primary care**

Your primary care physician can be a family practitioner, general practitioner, pediatrician or internist. 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 or visit our website at www.partnershealth.com. We will help you select a new one. Changes take effect the first of the month after we receive your request. You can change your primary care physician up to four times per year.

- **Specialty care**

Your primary care physician will refer you to a specialist for needed care. However, women may see her obstetrician/gynecologist at any time and members may contact our Mental Health/Chemical Dependency coordinator (Behavioral Health Resources) without a referral at 800-266-6167.

Here are 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 work with the Plan to 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 must receive treatment from a specialist who does. Generally, we will not pay for you to see a specialist who does not participate with our Plan.

- 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 or 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 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 800-942-5695. 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.

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.

Your physician must obtain prior approval for any referral to a non-participating provider and the following services and/or procedures require prior authorization by us in order to be covered:

- Acupuncture
- All non-emergency hospital admissions (Plan MUST be notified of any emergency or urgent admission)
- Ambulatory Blood Pressure (ABP) Monitoring
- Biofeedback
- Blepharoplasty
- Botox Injection (Clostridium Botulinum) Therapy
- Breast reduction
- Chemical Peels
- Circulating Cooling devices
- Dental Services for Accidental Injury
- Frenulectomy or Frenotomy - Oral and Lingual
- Growth Hormone Therapy
- Home health agency services
- Hospice
- IV drug therapy > $1,000 per injection
- Medical equipment, medical supplies (DME), and prosthetics
- Mental health/substance abuse
- MOHS Surgery
- Nutritional/Dietary Consults/Diabetic Teaching
- Orthognathic Surgery
- Pain Centers/Clinics/Programs
- Palatopharyngoplasty and/or uvulectomy
- Penile Implants
- Perilymphatic fistula
- PET Scan
- Refractive surgical procedures, e.g. Radial Keratotomy (RK) or (PRK) or LASIK
- Rehabilitation therapies including:
  - Cardiac rehabilitation programs
  - Cognitive Rehabilitation
  - Pulmonary Rehabilitation
  - Speech Therapy
- Septoplasty/Rhinoplasty
- Skilled Nursing Facility
- Sleep Centers
- Surgical Treatment of Sleep Apnea including somnoplasty
- Synagis
- TMJ Surgery
- Transplants, Bone Marrow and Organ
- Transportation in non-emergency situations
- Varicose Vein Treatment
- Ventral hernia requiring abdominoplasty
- Video EEG
- Wound Care Clinic

Only those services which are provided by a primary care physician, referred by primary care physician to participating specialists or prior approved by the Plan, will be covered. If you seek services without a referral or prior approval you will be responsible for the cost of such services.

Section 4. Your costs for covered services

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

- **Copayments** — A copayment is a fixed amount of money you pay to the provider 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 $250 per admission.

- **Deductible** — We do not have a deductible.

- **Coinsurance** — Coinsurance is the percentage of our negotiated fee that you must pay for your care.

  Example: In our Plan, you pay 20% of our allowance for Durable Medical Supplies, Prosthetic Devices and Foot Orthotics.

Your out-of-pocket maximum for coinsurance

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 coinsurance for covered services. However, copayments do not count toward your out-of-pocket maximum.

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

Section 5. Benefits -- OVERVIEW

(See page 6 for how our benefits changed this year and page 47 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 claims forms, claims filing advice, or more information about our benefits, contact us at 800-942-5695 or at our website at www.partnershealth.com.

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

IMPORTANT

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.
- Plan physicians must provide or arrange your care.
- 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.

IMPORTANT

Benefit Description	You pay
Diagnostic and treatment services	
Professional services of physicians • In physician's office • At home • Office medical consultations • Second surgical opinion Note: specialty care requires a referral from your primary care physician	$10 per office visit
Professional services of physicians • In a skilled nursing facility	$10 per day
Professional services of physicians • During a hospital stay • Initial examination of a newborn child covered under a family enrollment	Nothing for physician services; $250 per admission
Professional services of physicians • In an urgent care center	$25 per urgent care center visit
Lab, X-ray and other diagnostic tests	
Tests, such as: • Blood tests • Urinalysis • Non-routine pap tests • Pathology • X-rays • Non-routine Mammograms • Cat Scans/MRI • Ultrasound • Electrocardiogram and EEG	Nothing if you receive these services during your office visit; otherwise, $10 per office visit

Preventive care, adult	You pay
Routine screenings, such as: • Blood lead level – One annually • Total blood cholesterol – once every three years, ages 19 through 64 • Colorectal cancer screening, including ••Fecal occult blood test ••Sigmoidoscopy, screening – every five years starting at age 50 • Prostate Specific Antigen (PSA test) – one annually for men age 40 and older • Routine pap test (one annually) Note: The office visit is covered if pap test is received on the same day; see *Diagnostic and treatment services*, on previous page.	$10 per office visit
Routine mammogram –covered for women age 35 and older, as follows: • From age 35 through 39, one during this five year period • From age 40 and older, once every 12 months	$10 per office visit
Routine immunizations, limited to: • Tetanus-diphtheria (Td) booster – once every 10 years, ages19 and over (except as provided for under Childhood immunizations) • Influenza/Pneumococcal vaccines, annually, age 65 and over	$10 per office visit
Not covered: Physical exams and immunizations required for obtaining or continuing employment or insurance, attending schools or camp, or travel.	*All charges.*
Preventive care, children	
Childhood immunizations recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics and the Centers for Disease Control	$10 per office visit
• Examinations when performed during a health exam by your primary care physician, such as: ••Eye exams through age 17 to determine the need for vision correction. ••Ear exams through age 17 to determine hearing loss ••Examinations done on the day of immunizations (through age 22) • Well-child care charges for routine examinations, immunizations and care (through age 22)	$10 per office visit

Maternity care	You pay
Complete maternity (obstetrical) care, such as: • Prenatal care • Delivery • Postnatal care Note: Here are some things to keep in mind: • You do not need to precertify your normal delivery; see page 24 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).	$10 for initial office visit **you pay nothing for prenatal and postnatal visits
Not covered: • *Routine sonograms to determine fetal age, size or sex* • *Free-standing Birthing Centers*	*All charges*
Family planning	
• Voluntary sterilization • Surgically implanted contraceptives • Injectable contraceptive drugs • Intrauterine devices (IUDs)	$10 per office visit; $250 per admission if hospitalized
Not covered: reversal of voluntary surgical sterilization and genetic counseling,	*All charges.*

Infertility services	You pay
Diagnosis and treatment of infertility, such as: • Artificial insemination: ••*intravaginal insemination (IVI) – Limited to 6 cycles* ••*intracervical insemination (ICI) – Limited to 6 cycles* ••*intrauterine insemination (IUI) – Limited to 6 cycles* • Fertility drugs Note: We cover injectable fertility drugs and oral fertility drugs under the prescription drug benefit.	$10 per office visit
Not covered: • *Assisted reproductive technology (ART) procedures, such as:* ••*in vitro fertilization* ••*embryo transfer and GIFT* • *Services and supplies related to excluded ART procedures* • *Cost of donor sperm* • *Sperm banking* • *Surrogate motherhood*	*All charges.*
Allergy care	
• Testing and treatment • Allergy injection	$10 per office visit or cost of injection, whichever is less
Allergy serum	Nothing
Not covered: • *provocative food testing,* • *sublingual allergy desensitization,* • *skin titration (RINKEL Method),* • *cytotoxicity testing (Bryan's Test),* • *MAST testing,* • *urine autoinjections,* • *subcutaneous or sublingual provocative and neutralization testing*	*All charges.*

Treatment therapies	You pay
• Chemotherapy and radiation therapy Note: High dose chemotherapy in association with autologous bone marrow transplants are limited to those transplants listed under Organ/Tissue Transplants on page 22. • Respiratory and inhalation therapy • Dialysis – Hemodialysis and peritoneal dialysis • Intravenous (IV)/Infusion Therapy – Home IV and antibiotic therapy • Growth hormone therapy (GHT) Note: – We will only cover GHT when we preauthorize the treatment. Have your physician call 800-824-0898. Your physician will be asked to submit information that establishes that the GHT is medically necessary. Prior authorization must be obtained BEFORE GHT begins. Otherwise, we will only cover GHT services from the date your physician submits the information. If you do not ask or if we determine GHT is not medically necessary, we will not cover the GHT or related services and supplies. See *Services requiring our prior approval* in Section 3.	$10 per office visit
Rehabilitative therapies	
Physical therapy, occupational therapy and speech therapy -- • Up to 2 months or 24 visits (whichever is greater) per condition for the services of each of the following: ••qualified physical therapists; ••speech therapists; and ••occupational therapists. Note: Speech therapy is not covered unless it is related to an accident, disease or medical condition. It is covered when significant improvement in speech is expected within a predicted time period as a result of such therapy. • Cardiac rehabilitation following a heart transplant, bypass surgery or a myocardial infarction, is provided when medically necessary and referred by your doctor with prior approval.	$10 per office visit
Not covered: • *long-term rehabilitative therapy* • *vocational rehabilitation/therapy* • *exercise programs* • *speech therapy for a covered dependent when such therapy is available through the public school system*	*All charges.*

Hearing services (testing, treatment, and supplies)	You pay
Hearing testing for children through age 17 (see *Preventive care, children*)	$10 per office visit
Not covered: • *all other hearing testing* • *hearing aids, testing and examinations for them*	*All charges.*
Vision services (testing, treatment, and supplies)	
• Eye exams through age 17 to determine the need for vision correction (see *Preventive care, children*). • Annual retinal exam for diabetics	$10 per office visit
Not covered: • *Eyeglasses or contact lenses – available under Non-FEHB benefits* • *Eye exercises and orthoptics* • *Radial keratotomy and other refractive surgery*	*All charges.*
Foot care	
Routine foot care when you are under active treatment for a metabolic or peripheral vascular disease, such as diabetes. Note: See orthopedic and prosthetic devices for information on podiatric shoe inserts.	$10 per office visit
Not covered: • *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* • *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)*	*All charges.*

Orthopedic and prosthetic devices	You pay
• 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, and surgically implanted breast implant following mastectomy. Note: See 5(b) for coverage of the surgery to insert the device.	20% of charges
Custom foot orthotics which are transferable from shoe to shoe and when prescribed by a Plan podiatrist or orthopedic surgeon up to a maximum Plan payment of $250 every 12 month period.	20% of charges
Not covered: • *orthopedic and corrective shoes* • *arch supports* • *cochlear implants* • *heel pads and heel cups* • *lumbosacral supports* • *corsets, trusses, elastic stockings, support hose, and other supportive devices* • *prosthetic replacements provided less than 3 years after the last one we covered* • *over the counter foot orthotics*	*All charges.*
Durable medical equipment (DME)	
Rental or purchase, at our option, including repair and adjustment, of durable medical equipment prescribed by your Plan physician, such as oxygen and dialysis equipment. Under this benefit, we also cover: • hospital beds; • manual wheelchairs – maximum benefit $1200 • motorized wheelchairs – maximum benefit $3000 • crutches; • walkers; • blood glucose monitors; and • insulin pumps Note: Call us at 800-942-5695 as soon as your Plan physician prescribes this equipment. All durable medical equipment requires prior authorization. We will arrange with a health care provider to provide durable medical equipment and will tell you more about this service when you call.	20% of charges
Not covered: • *Shoes not attached to braces* • *Replacement of lost, stolen or improperly used equipment* • *Non –prescription shoe inserts*	*All charges.*

Home health services	You pay
• Home health care ordered by a Plan physician, provided by a registered nurse (R.N.), licensed practical nurse (L.P.N.), licensed vocational nurse (L.V.N.), respiratory therapists or home health aide and approved by the Plan in advance. • Services include oxygen therapy, intravenous therapy and medication	$10 per visit
Not covered: • *nursing care requested by, or for the convenience of, the patient or the patient's family;* • *care by nurses primarily for hygiene, feeding, exercising, moving the patient, homemaking, companionship or giving oral medication.*	*All charges.*
Alternative treatments	
Chiropractic services with a referral from your primary care physician	$10 per office visit
Not covered: • *homeopathy* • *massage therapy* • *sleep therapy* • *acupuncture* • *naturopathic services* • *hypnotherapy*	*All charges.*
Educational classes and programs	
Coverage is limited to: • Diabetes self-management training and educational services • Nutritional counseling when prescribed by your primary care physician following a newly diagnosed medical condition or significant worsening of a chronic condition. Must be prior approved by the Plan.	$10 per office visit
• Smoking Cessation Program provided in cooperation with Gordian Health Solutions. You must call 1-800-543-3785 between 8am and 7pm to enroll and receive details on the program	$30 one time enrollment fee
Not covered: • *Weight loss programs*	*All charges*

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

IMPORTANT

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.
- Plan physicians must provide or arrange your care.
- 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.) .
- YOU MUST GET PRECERTIFICATION OF ALL 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.

IMPORTANT

Benefit Description	You pay
Surgical procedures	
Such as: • Treatment of fractures, including casting • Normal pre- and post-operative care by the surgeon • Correction of amblyopia and strabismus • Endoscopy procedure • Biopsy procedure • Removal of tumors and cysts • Correction of congenital anomalies (see reconstructive surgery) • Surgical treatment of morbid obesity -- a condition in which an individual weighs 100 pounds or 60% over his or her normal weight according to MetLife Charts; eligible members must be age 18 or over • Insertion of internal prosthetic devices. See 5(a) – Orthopedic braces and prosthetic devices for device coverage information. • Voluntary sterilization • Norplant (a surgically implanted contraceptive) and intrauterine devices (IUDs) Note: Devices are covered under 5(a). • Treatment of burns 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	$10 per office visit; nothing for outpatient hospital visits; $250 per inpatient hospital admission
Not covered: • *Reversal of voluntary sterilization* • *Routine treatment of conditions of the foot; see Foot care.*	*All charges.*

Reconstructive surgery	You pay

• 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; webbed fingers; and webbed toes.
	$10 per office visit; nothing for outpatient hospital visits; $250 per inpatient hospital admission

• All stages of breast reconstruction surgery following a mastectomy, such as:
  •• surgery to produce a symmetrical appearance on the other breast;
  •• treatment of any physical complications, such as lymphedemas;
  •• breast prostheses and surgical bras and replacements (see Prosthetic devices)
Note: If you need a masectomy, you may choose to have the procedure performed on an inpatient basis and remain in the hospital up to 48 hours after the procedure.
	$10 per office visit; nothing for outpatient hospital visits; $250 per inpatient hospital admission

Not covered: • *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* • *Surgeries related to sex transformation*	*All charges*
Oral and maxillofacial surgery	
Oral surgical procedures on an outpatient basis, limited to: • 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.	$10 per office visit; nothing for outpatient hospital visits
Not covered: • *Oral implants and transplants* • *Procedures that involve the teeth or their supporting structures (such as the periodontal membrane, gingiva, and alveolar bone)* • *Treatment to improve the appearance of a functional structure*	*All charges.*

Organ/tissue transplants	You pay
Limited to: • 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 Limited Benefits - Treatment for breast cancer, multiple myeloma, and epithelial ovarian cancer may be provided in an NCI- or NIH-approved clinical trial at a Plan-designated provider and if approved by the Plan's medical director in accordance with the Plan's protocols. Note: All transplants must be prior approved by the Plan. The Plan reserves the right to designate the transplant center at which transplant services will be provided. We cover related medical and hospital expenses of the donor when we cover the recipient.	Nothing for the surgical procedure; $250 per admission
Not covered: • *Donor screening tests and donor search expenses, except those performed for the actual donor* • *Implants of artificial organs* • *Transplants not listed as covered* • *Combined kidney/liver transplants*	*All charges*
Anesthesia	
Professional services provided in – • Hospital (inpatient)	Nothing
Professional services provided in – • Hospital outpatient department • Skilled nursing facility • Ambulatory surgical center • Office	$10 per office visit

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

IMPORTANT

Here are some important things to remember 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 and you must be hospitalized in a Plan facility.
- 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 covered in Section 5(a) or (b).
- **YOU MUST GET PRECERTIFICATION OF HOSPITAL STAYS.** Please refer to Section 3 to be sure which services require precertification.

IMPORTANT

Benefit Description	You pay
Inpatient hospital	
Room and board, such as • ward, semiprivate, or intensive care accommodations; • general nursing care; and • meals and special diets. NOTE: If you want a private room when it is not medically necessary, you pay the additional charge above the semiprivate room rate.	$250 per admission
Other hospital services and supplies, such as: • 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.	$250 per admission
Not covered: • *Custodial care* • *Non-covered facilities, such as nursing homes, extended care facilities, schools* • *Personal comfort items, such as telephone, television, barber services, guest meals and beds* • *Private nursing care*	*All charges.*

Outpatient hospital or ambulatory surgical center	You pay
• 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	Nothing
Not covered: blood and blood derivatives not replaced by the member	*All charges*
Extended care benefits/skilled nursing care facility benefits	
Skilled nursing facility up to 100 days per spell of illness	$10 per day
Not covered: custodial or domiciliary care	*All charges*
Hospice care	
210 day limit once per lifetime with prior authorization	$10 per day
Not covered: Independent nursing, homemaker services	*All charges*
Ambulance	
Local professional ambulance service when medically appropriate	$10 per occurrence

Section 5 (d). Emergency services/accidents

IMPORTANT

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.
- 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.

IMPORTANT

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 you are in an emergency situation, please call your primary care doctor. In extreme emergencies, if you are unable to contact your doctor, contact the local emergency system (e.g., the 911 telephone system) or go to the nearest hospital emergency room. Be sure to tell the emergency room personnel that you are a Plan member so they can notify us. You or a family member should notify this Plan within 48 hours. It is your responsibility to ensure that we are timely notified. If you need to be hospitalized, your primary care doctor must be notified within 48 hours or on the first working day following your admission, unless it was not reasonably possible to notify your primary care doctor within that time. If you are hospitalized in non-Plan facilities and Plan doctors believe care can be better provided in a Plan hospital, you will be transferred when medically feasible with any ambulance charges covered in full.

Benefits are available for care from non-Plan providers in a medical emergency only if delay in reaching a Plan provider would result in death, disability or significant jeopardy to your condition. To be covered by this Plan, any follow-up care recommended by non-Plan providers must be approved by us or provided by Plan providers.

Emergencies outside our service area:

If you need emergency care while outside our service area, go to the nearest emergency facility. We encourage you to contact your primary care physician as soon as possible. If you have to pay for your care, send an itemized bill within 180 days to PARTNERS, PO Box 17268, Winston-Salem, NC, 27116-7268. Benefits are available for any medically necessary health service that is immediately required because of injury or unforeseen illness. If you need to be hospitalized, we must be notified within 48 hours or on the first working day following your admission, unless it was not reasonably possible to notify us within that time. If a Plan doctor believes care can be better provided in a Plan hospital, you will be transferred when medically feasible with any ambulance charges covered in full.

Benefits are available for care from non-Plan providers in a medical emergency only if delay in reaching a Plan provider would result in death, disability or significant jeopardy to your condition. To be covered by this Plan, any follow-up care recommended by non-Plan providers must be approved by this Plan or provided by Plan providers.

Benefit Description	You pay
Emergency within our service area	
Emergency care at a doctor's office	$10 per office visit
Emergency care at a participating urgent care center	$25 per visit
Emergency care as an outpatient or inpatient at a hospital, including doctors' services Note: If emergency results in admission to a hospital within 24 hours with the same diagnosis, the emergency room copay is waived.	$50 per visit
Not covered: Elective care or non-emergency care	*All charges.*
Emergency outside our service area	
Emergency care at a doctor's office	$10 per office visit
Emergency care at an urgent care center, with prior approval from your primary care physician	$25 per visit
Emergency care as an outpatient or inpatient at a hospital, including doctors' services Note: If emergency results in admission to a hospital within 24 hours with the same diagnosis, the emergency room copay is waived.	$50 per visit
Not covered: • *Elective care or non-emergency care* • *Emergency care provided outside the service area if the need for care could have been foreseen before leaving the service area* • *Medical and hospital costs resulting from a normal full-term delivery of a baby outside the service area.*	*All charges.*
Ambulance	
Professional ambulance service when medically appropriate. See 5(c) for non-emergency service.	$10 per occurrence
Not covered: air ambulance	*All charges.*

Section 5 (e). Mental health and substance abuse benefits

IMPORTANT

Parity

Beginning in 2001, all FEHB plans' mental health and substance abuse benefits will achieve "parity" with other benefits. This means that we will provide mental health and substance abuse benefits differently than in the past.

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:

- All benefits are subject to the definitions, limitations, and exclusions in this brochure.
- 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.

IMPORTANT

Benefit Description	You pay
Mental health and substance abuse benefits	
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. 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.	Your cost sharing responsibilities are no greater than for other illness or conditions.
• Professional services, including individual or group therapy by providers such as psychiatrists, psychologists, or clinical social workers • Medication management • Diagnostic tests	$10 per office visit
• Services provided by a hospital or other facility • Services in a substance abuse rehabilitation (intermediate care) program in an alcohol detoxification or rehabilitation center approved by the Plan. .	$250 per admission

Mental health and substance abuse benefits *(continued)*	**You pay**
Not covered: Services we have not approved. *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.*	*All charges.*

Preauthorization

To be eligible to receive these benefits you must follow your treatment plan and all the following authorization processes:

- You must call Behavioral Health Resources (BHR) at 800-266-6167 for full details on participating providers, inpatient and outpatient treatment plan approvals and other covered procedures. All services must receive authorization before treatment begins in order to be covered

Special transitional benefit

If a mental health or substance abuse professional provider is treating you under our plan as of January 1, 2001, you will be eligible for continued coverage with your provider for up to 90 days under the following condition:

- If your mental health or substance abuse professional provider with whom you are currently in treatment leaves the plan at our request for other than cause.

If this condition applies to you, we will allow you reasonable time to transfer your care to a network mental health or substance abuse professional provider. During the transitional period, you may continue to see your treating provider and will not pay any more out-of-pocket than you did in the year 2000 for services. This transitional period will begin with our notice to you of the change in coverage and will end 90 days after you receive our notice. If we write to you before October 1, 2000, the 90 day period ends before January 1 and this transitional benefit does not apply.

Limitation

We may limit your benefits if you do not follow your treatment plan.

Section 5 (f). Prescription drug benefits

IMPORTANT

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.
- There are drugs which require prior approval. Your physician must contact our pharmacy benefits manager and obtain prior approval prior to prescribing. In addition, there are drugs that have quantity limitations which means that they are dispensed in smaller quantities.
- 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.

IMPORTANT

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

- **Who can write your prescription.** A licensed plan physician or licensed dentist must write the prescription.
- **Where you can obtain them.** The Plan provides you with access to a wide selection of convenient pharmacies, some of which are available nationwide**.** You must fill the prescription at a participating plan pharmacy. A copy of our participating pharmacy list is included in your enrollment kit or you can call us at 800-942-5695 for a list of participating pharmacies.
- **We use a formulary.** The formulary is a list of the drugs we cover. The drugs on our formulary meet industry standards for quality, safety, effectiveness and cost. A team of doctors and pharmacists conducts extensive research to help make sure the formulary includes the right medicines. In this tough review, the Plan looks for the most desirable drugs, in terms of quality, safety and effectiveness. As drugs are reviewed, cost is considered only when all therapeutic factors are equal. When new drugs are developed and regulations change, the Plan formulary may change. This allows the Plan to offer even more cost-effective, quality options for drug therapy.
- **These are the dispensing limitations:** Generally, you will receive up to a 34-day supply. Occasionally, you may be prescribed a drug that is very strong or may have side effects. This requires monitoring of the use of that drug. In these cases, your doctor should call the Plan's pharmacy benefit manager to get prior approval. Prior approval helps ensure that you receive the right medicine and avoid potential safety problems.
- **When you have to file a claim.** If you incur covered out-of-pocket pharmacy expenses, you can mail your original receipts to our Customer Services Department at PARTNERS National Health Plans of NC, Inc., PO Box 17268, Winston-Salem, NC, 27116-7268.

Prescription drug benefits begin on the next page.

Benefit Description	You pay
Covered medications and supplies	
We cover the following medications and supplies prescribed by a Plan physician and obtained from a Plan pharmacy: • Drugs and medicines that by Federal law of the United States require a physician's prescription for their purchase. • Insulin • Disposable needles and syringes for the administration of covered medications • Drugs for sexual dysfunction (see Prior authorization below) • Contraceptive drugs and devices • Fertility drugs	$10 per 34 day supply
• Diabetic supplies, including glucose tablets and test tape, Benedict's solution or equivalent and acetone test tablets	20%of charges
Here are some things to keep in mind about our prescription drug program: • 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, and your physician has not specified Dispense as Written for the name brand drug, you have to pay the difference in cost between the name brand and the generic, plus the copay. • We administer a formulary. A copy of the formulary is included in your enrollment kit or you can call us at 800-942-5695 for a copy of our formulary. • Some drugs on our formulary require prior authorization. Your physician should call our pharmacy benefit manager at 800-417-8164 for more information prior to prescribing the medication. • Certain drugs used to treat chronic conditions may be covered for up to three 34 day supplies for 3 copays. Your physician can help identify these drugs. • If the retail cost of your drug is less than your copayment, you pay the lower amount.	
Not covered: • *Drugs and supplies for cosmetic purposes* • *Drugs obtained at a non-Plan pharmacy except for out-of-area emergencies* • *Medical supplies such as dressings and antiseptics* • *Drugs to enhance athletic performance* • *Appetite suppressants, except for treatment of morbid obesity* • *Smoking cessation products* • *Vitamins, nutrients and food supplements even if a physician prescribes or administers them* • *Nonprescription medicines* • *Drugs that have the same strength ingredients available in an over-the-counter form*	*All Charges*

Section 5 (g). Special Features

Feature	Description
The PARTNERS TLC Line™	The PARTNERS TLC (Telephone Learning Center) Line at 1-888-215-4069 provides information on over 1,600 health-related topics. Or, you can choose to get information from a registered nurse. The line operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
The Natural Connection	This 24-hour call line (877-874-WELL) can help you learn more about complementary or alternative care for many common health problems. Among its many features: • Includes over 60 audio taped messages • Explains natural health care approaches to many common health problems • Discusses dietary changes, nutritional supplements and herbs that can help you heal more quickly and feel better • Offers information about effective home equipment, exercises and complementary health care services This service is not a substitute for the care of a doctor and your benefits do not necessarily include coverage for the treatments described through the call line.
Healthy Expectations	Healthy Expectations gives you information about pregnancy. Participants automatically receive 6 booklets called *Beginnings: A Practical Guide Through Your Pregnancy*. When you join, a registered nurse will call you to check whether you received your materials and after your baby is born, a nurse will call you again to find out what you think about the program. Call 800-933-4568 to sign up.
Natural Choice	We offer a web-based program at www.partnershealth.com designed to offer you a variety of complementary and alternative health and wellness services, such as alternative care providers and nutritional supplements.
Fitness Centers	You can receive discounts on membership with participating fitness centers throughout our service area. Call us at 800-942-5695 for a list of participating facilities.
Educational Seminars	We offer a listing of health education classes, programs and support groups in our service area. The programs include learning about childcare or heart disease. Please refer to our website at www.partnershealth.com for a listing of programs.

Section 5 (h). Dental benefits

IMPORTANT

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.
- Plan dentists must provide or arrange your care.
- We cover hospitalization for dental procedures only when a nondental physical impairment exists which makes hospitalization necessary to safeguard the health of the patient; 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.

IMPORTANT

Accidental injury benefit	You pay
We cover restorative services and supplies necessary to promptly repair (but not replace) sound natural teeth that includes repair of injury to jaw bones or surrounding tissues as a result of accidental injury to include: 1. Dental procedures, surgery or orthodontic treatment necessary to remove, repair, restore or reposition natural teeth damaged, lost or removed; 2. Installations of crowns, dentures or bridgework only for such services and prostheses as are necessary to restore the level of dental function prior to injury; 3. Root canal therapy if root damage is a result of such accidental injury. The need for these services must result from an accidental injury, not from biting or chewing. You must receive prior approval for these services and seek treatment within six months of the date the injury occurred from a participating provider.	$10 per office visit or $250 per hospital admission.

Dental benefits

We have no other dental benefits.

Section 5 (i). Non-FEHB benefits available to Plan members

The benefits in this section are not part of the FEHB contract or premium, **and you cannot file an FEHB disputed claim about them**. Fees you pay for these services do not count toward FEHB deductibles or out-of-pocket maximums.

Nutritional counseling, health education and wellness benefits

Call us for details at 336-760-4822 or visit our website at www.partnershealth.com.

Eye exams

Eye Exams are covered once every 12 months for ages 17 and under and once every 24 months for ages 17 and over. You pay a $20 copayment per visit. Approximately 20% will be discounted on hardware. Vision services must be obtained through a Plan participating provider. Please consult our Customer Services Department for participating vision providers and a schedule of hardware discounts.

Medicare prepaid plan enrollment

This Plan offers Medicare recipients the opportunity to enroll in the Plan through Medicare. As indicated on page 39, annuitants and former spouses with FEHB coverage and Medicare Part B may elect to drop their FEHB coverage and enroll in a Medicare prepaid Plan when one is available in their area. They may then later reenroll in the FEHB Program. Most Federal annuitants have Medicare Part A. Those **without** Medicare Part A may join this Medicare prepaid Plan but will probably have to pay for hospital coverage in addition to the Part B premium. **Before** you join the plan, ask whether the plan covers hospital benefits and, if so, what you will have to pay. Contact your retirement system for information on dropping your FEHB enrollment and changing to a Medicare prepaid plan. Contact us at 800-942-5695 for information on the Medicare prepaid plan and the cost of that enrollment.

If you are Medicare eligible and are interested in enrolling in a Medicare HMO sponsored by this Plan without dropping your enrollment in this Plan's FEHB plan, call 800-942-5695 for information on the benefits available under Medicare HMO.

Benefits on this page are not part of the FEHB contract

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, inury or condition.**

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 that are 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; or
- Services, drugs, or supplies you receive from a provider or facility barred from the FEHB Program.

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 or coinsurance.

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, hospital and drug Benefits

In most cases, providers and facilities file claims for you.

Physicians must file on the form HCFA-1500, Health Insurance Claim Form. Facilities will file on the UB-92 form. For claims questions and assistance, call us at 800-942-5695.

When you must file a claim -- such as for out-of-area care -- 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 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: **PARTNERS National Health Plans of NC, Inc.**
PO Box 17268
Winston-Salem, NC 27116-7268

Deadline for filing your claim

Send us all of the documents for your claim as soon as possible. You must submit the claim within 180 days after 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:

Step	Description
1	Ask us in writing to reconsider our initial decision. You must: (a) Write to us within 6 months from the date of our decision; and (b) Send your request to us at PARTNERS National Health Plans of NC, Inc., PO Box 17068, Winston-Salem, NC, 27116-7068 and (c) Include a statement about why you believe our initial decision was wrong, based on specific benefit provisions in this brochure; and (d) Include copies of documents that support your claim, such as physicians' letters, operative reports, bills, medical records, and explanation of benefits (EOB) forms.
2	We have 30 days from the date we receive your request to: (a) Pay the claim (or, if applicable, arrange for the health care provider to give you the care); or (b) Write to you and maintain our denial -- go to step 4; or (c) 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	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. 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. We will write to you with our decision.
4	If you do not agree with our decision, you may ask OPM to review it. You must write to OPM within: • 90 days after the date of our letter upholding our initial decision; or • 120 days after you first wrote to us -- if we did not answer that request in some way within 30 days; or • 120 days after we asked for additional information. Write to OPM at: Office of Personnel Management, Office of Insurance Programs, Contracts Division III, P.O. Box 436, Washington, D.C. 20044-0436.

The disputed claims process – Continued on next page.

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 different claims, 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 provide 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.

5 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.

6 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. 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 800-942-5695 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 can call OPM's Health Benefits Contracts Division III at 202/606-0737 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 are covered or a family member is covered 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 either what is left of the allowed charge or our regular benefit, whichever is less. We will not pay more than our allowance.

•What is Medicare?

Medicare is a Health Insurance Program for:

- People 65 years of age and 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.
- Part B (Medical Insurance). Most people pay monthly for Part B.

If you are eligible for Medicare, you may have choices in how you get your health care. Medicare + Choice is the term used to describe the various health plan choices available to Medicare beneficiaries. The information in the next few pages shows how we coordinate benefits with Medicare, depending on the type of Medicare managed care plan you have.

•The Original Medicare Plan

The Original Medicare Plan is available everywhere in the United States. It is the way most people get their Medicare Part A and Part B benefits. You may go to any doctor, specialist, or hospital that accepts Medicare. Medicare pays its share and you pay your share. Some things are not covered under Original Medicare, like prescription drugs.

When you are enrolled in this Plan and Original Medicare, you still need to follow the rules in this brochure for us to cover your care. We will not waive any of our copayments or coinsurance.

(Primary payer chart begins on next page)

The following chart illustrates whether Original 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 either you -- or your covered spouse -- are age 65 or over and …	**Then the primary payer is…**	
	Original Medicare	**This Plan**
1) Are an active employee with the Federal government (including when you or a family member are eligible for Medicare solely because of a disability),		✓
2) Are an annuitant,	✓	
3) Are a reemployed annuitant with the Federal government when…		
a) The position is excluded from FEHB, or…….	✓	
b) The position is not excluded from FEHB…….		✓
Ask your employing office which of these applies to you.		
4) 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),	✓	
5) Are enrolled in Part B only, regardless of your employment status,	✓ (for Part B services)	✓ (for other services)
6) 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,	✓ (except for claims related to Workers' Compensation.)	
B. When you -- or a covered family member -- have Medicare based on end stage renal disease (ESRD) and…		
1) Are within the first 30 months of eligibility to receive Part A benefits solely because of ESRD,		✓
2) Have completed the 30-month ESRD coordination period and are still eligible for Medicare due to ESRD,	✓	
3) Become eligible for Medicare due to ESRD after Medicare became primary for you under another provision,	✓	
C. When you or a covered family member have FEHB and…		
1) Are eligible for Medicare based on disability, and		
a) Are an annuitant, or……..	✓	
b) Are an active employee……		✓

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

- 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 claims will be coordinated automatically and we will pay the balance of covered charges. You will not need to do anything. To find out if you need to do something about filing your claims, call us at 800-942-5695.

When Medicare is primary we will not waive any of our copayments or coinsurance.

•Medicare managed care plan

If you are eligible for Medicare, you may choose to enroll in and get your Medicare benefits from a Medicare managed care plan. These are health care choices (like HMOs) in some areas of the country. In most Medicare managed care plans, you can only go to doctors, specialists, or hospitals that are part of the plan. Medicare managed care plans cover all Medicare Part A and B benefits. Some cover extras, like prescription drugs. To learn more about enrolling in a Medicare managed care plan, contact Medicare at 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227) or at www.medicare.gov. If you enroll in a Medicare managed care plan, the following options are available to you:

This Plan and our Medicare managed care plan: You may enroll in our Medicare managed care plan and also remain enrolled in our FEHB plan. In this case, we do not waive any of our copayments or coinsurance for your FEHB coverage.

This Plan and another Plan's Medicare managed care plan: You may enroll in another plan's Medicare managed care plan and also remain enrolled in our FEHB plan. We will still provide benefits when your Medicare managed care plan is primary, even out of the managed care plan's network and/or service area (if you use our Plan providers), but we will not waive any of our copayments or coinsurance.

Suspended FEHB coverage and a Medicare managed care plan: If you are an annuitant or former spouse, you can suspend your FEHB coverage to enroll in a Medicare managed care plan, eliminating your FEHB premium. (OPM does not contribute to your Medicare managed care 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+Choice service area.

• Enrollment in Medicare Part B

Note: If you choose not to enroll in Medicare Part B, you can still be covered under the FEHB Program. We cannot require you to enroll in Medicare.

TRICARE

TRICARE is the health care program for eligible dependents of military persons and retirees of the military. TRICARE includes the CHAMPUS program. If both TRICARE and this Plan cover you, we pay first. See your TRICARE Health Benefits Advisor if you have questions about TRICARE coverage.

Workers' Compensation

We do not cover services that:

- you need because of a workplace-related disease 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 benefits. You must use our providers.

Medicaid

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

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.

Copayment

A copayment is a fixed amount of money you pay when you receive covered services. See page 10.

Coinsurance

Coinsurance is the percentage of our allowance that you must pay for your care. See page 10.

Covered services

Care we provide benefits for, as described in this brochure.

Experimental or investigational services

This Plan's Medical Director and Medical Services Department determine what procedures and services are experimental/investigational using Hayes Medical Technology, Center for Disease Control, Medicare guidelines and Plan Physician consultants

Medical necessity

The evaluation of health care services to determine if they are medically appropriate and necessary to meet basic health needs; consistent with the diagnosis or condition and rendered in a cost-effective manner; and consistent with national medical practice guidelines regarding type, frequency and duration of treatment

Plan allowance

Plan allowance is the amount we use to determine our payment and your coinsurance for covered services.

Us/We

Us and we refer to PARTNERS National Health Plans of North Carolina, Inc.

You

You refers to the enrollee and each covered family member.

Section 11. FEHB facts

No pre-existing condition limitation

We will not refuse to cover the treatment of a condition that 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:

- 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 health 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.

When benefits and premiums start

The benefits in this brochure are effective on January 1. If you are new to this Plan, your coverage and premiums begin on the first day of your first pay period that starts on or after January 1. Annuitants' premiums begin on January 1.

Your medical and claims records are confidential

We will keep your medical and claims information confidential. Only the following will have access to it:

- OPM, this Plan, and subcontractors when they administer this contract;
- This Plan, and appropriate third parties, such as other insurance plans and the Office of Workers' Compensation Programs (OWCP), when coordinating benefit payments and subrogating claims;
- Law enforcement officials when investigating and/or prosecuting alleged civil or criminal actions;
- OPM and the General Accounting Office when conducting audits;
- Individuals involved in bona fide medical research or education that does not disclose your identity; or
- OPM, when reviewing a disputed claim or defending litigation about a claim.

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.

• 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. But, you may be eligible for your own FEHB coverage under the spouse equity law. 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.

•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.

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

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.

•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

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.

Inspector General Advisory

Stop health care fraud! Fraud increases the cost of health care for everyone. If you suspect that a physician, pharmacy, or hospital 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 800-942-5695 and explain the situation.
- If we do not resolve the issue, call **THE HEALTH CARE FRAUD HOTLINE--202/418-3300** or write to: The United States Office of Personnel Management, Office of the Inspector General Fraud Hotline, 1900 E Street, NW, Room 6400, Washington, DC 20415.

Penalties for Fraud

Anyone who falsifies a claim to obtain FEHB Program benefits can be prosecuted for fraud. Also, the Inspector General may investigate anyone who uses an ID card if the person tries to obtain services for someone who is not an eligible family member, or is no longer enrolled in the Plan and tries to obtain benefits. Your agency may also take administrative action against you.

Department of Defense/FEHB Demonstration Project

What is it?

The Department of Defense/FEHB Demonstration Project allows some active and retired uniformed service members and their dependents to enroll in the FEHB Program. The demonstration will last for three years and began with the 1999 open season for the year 2000. Open season enrollments will be effective January 1, 2001. DoD and OPM have set up some special procedures to implement the Demonstration Project, noted below. Otherwise, the provisions described in this brochure apply.

Who is eligible

DoD determines who is eligible to enroll in the FEHB Program. Generally, you may enroll if:

- You are an active or retired uniformed service member and are eligible for Medicare;
- You are a dependent of an active or retired uniformed service member and are eligible for Medicare;
- You are a qualified former spouse of an active or retired uniformed service member and you have not remarried; or
- You are a survivor dependent of a deceased active or retired uniformed service member; and
- You live in one of the geographic demonstration areas.

If you are eligible to enroll in a plan under the regular Federal Employees Health Benefits Program, you are not eligible to enroll under the DoD/FEHBP Demonstration Project.

The demonstration areas

- Dover AFB, DE
- Fort Knox, KY
- Dallas, TX
- New Orleans, LA
- Adair County, IA
- Commonwealth of Puerto Rico
- Greensboro/Winston Salem/High Point, NC
- Humboldt County, CA area
- Naval Hospital, Camp Pendleton, CA
- Coffee County, GA

When you can join

You may enroll under the FEHB/DoD Demonstration Project during the 2000 open season, November 13, 2000, through December 11, 2000. Your coverage will begin January 1, 2001. DoD has set-up an Information Processing Center (IPC) in Iowa to provide you with information about how to enroll. IPC staff will verify your eligibility and provide you with FEHB Program information, plan brochures, enrollment instructions and forms. The toll-free phone number for the IPC is 1-877/DOD-FEHB (1-877/363-3342).

You may select coverage for yourself (Self Only) or for you and your family (Self and Family) during the 2000 and 2001 open seasons. Your coverage will begin January 1 of the year following the open season during which you enrolled.

If you become eligible for the DoD/FEHB Demonstration Project outside of open season, contact the IPC to find out how to enroll and when your coverage will begin.

DoD has a web site devoted to the Demonstration Project. You can view information such as their Marketing/Beneficiary Education Plan, Frequently Asked Questions, demonstration area locations and zip code lists at www.tricare.osd.mil/fehbp. You can also view information about the demonstration project, including "The 2001 Guide to Federal Employees Health Benefits Plans Participating in the DoD/FEHB Demonstration Project," on the OPM web site at www.opm.gov.

TCC eligibility

See Section 11, FEHB Facts; it explains temporary continuation of coverage (TCC). Under this DoD/FEHB Demonstration Project the **only** individual eligible for TCC is one who ceases to be eligible as a "member of family" under your self and family enrollment. This occurs when a child turns 22, for example, or if you divorce and your spouse does not qualify to enroll as an unremarried former spouse under title 10, United States Code. For these individuals, TCC begins the day after their enrollment in the DoD/FEHB Demonstration Project ends. TCC enrollment terminates after 36 months or the end of the Demonstration Project, whichever occurs first. You, your child, or another person must notify the IPC when a family member loses eligibility for coverage under the DoD/FEHB Demonstration Project.

TCC is not available if you move out of a DoD/FEHB Demonstration Project area, you cancel your coverage, or your coverage is terminated for any reason. TCC is not available when the demonstration project ends.

Other features

The 31-day extension of coverage and right to convert do not apply to the DoD/FEHB Demonstration Project.

Index

Do not rely on this page; it is for your convenience and does not explain your benefit coverage.

Summary of benefits for PARTNERS National Health Plans of North Carolina, Inc. - 2001

- **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.

Benefits	You Pay	Page
Medical services provided by physicians: • Diagnostic and treatment services provided in the office.....	Office visit copay: $10 primary care; $10 specialist	12
Services provided by a hospital: • Inpatient ..... • Outpatient.....	$250 per admission $10 per office visit	23 24
Emergency benefits: • In-area ..... • Out-of-area.....	$50 per visit $50 per visit	25 25
Mental health and substance abuse treatment.....	Regular cost sharing	27
Prescription drugs.....	$10 per prescription	29
Dental Care.....	Accidental only; Nothing for preventive services	32
Vision Care.....	No benefit	17
Special features: • The PARTNERS TLC Line • The Natural Connection • Healthy Expectations • Natural Choice • Fitness Centers • Educational Seminars		31
Protection against catastrophic costs (your 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	10

2001 Rate Information for
PARTNERS National Health Plans of North Carolina, Inc.

Non-Postal rates apply to most non-Postal enrollees. 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 special FEHB guides are published for Postal Service Nurses and Tool & Die employees (see RI 70-2B); and 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. Refer to the applicable FEHB Guide.

		Non-Postal Premium				Postal Premium	
		Biweekly		Monthly		Biweekly	
Type of Enrollment	Code	Gov't Share	Your Share	Gov't Share	Your Share	USPS Share	Your Share
Self Only	EQ1	$86.59	$29.62	$187.61	$64.18	$102.22	$13.99
Self and Family	EQ2	$195.82	$65.67	$424.28	$142.28	$231.17	$30.32