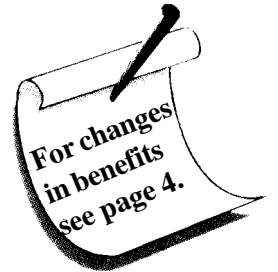

A Health Maintenance Organization

Serving:

Enrollment in this Plan is limited; see page 18 for requirements.

Enrollment code:

C81 Self Only
C82 Self and Family



Visit the OPM Website at <http://www.opm.gov/insure> and this Plan's Website at <http://www.bcnepa.com>

Authorized for distribution by the:



**United States
Office of
Personnel
Management**



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Table of Contents

	Page
Introduction	3
Plain language	3
How to use this brochure	3
Section 1. Health Maintenance Organization	4
Section 2. How we change for 2000	4
Section 3. How to get benefits	5-7
Section 4. What to do if we deny your claim or request for service	7-9
Section 5. Benefits	9-17
Section 6. General exclusions – Things we don't cover	18
Section 7. Limitations – Rules that affect your benefits	18-19
Section 8. FEHB Facts	20-23
Inspector General Advisory: Stop Healthcare Fraud!	23
Premiums	24

First Priority Health

First Priority Health, 70 North Main Street, Wilkes Barre, Pennsylvania, 18711

This brochure describes the benefits you can receive from First Priority Health HMO under its contract (CS2327) with the Office of Personnel Management (OPM), as authorized by the Federal Employees Health Benefits (FEHB) law. This brochure is the official statement of benefits on which you can rely. A person enrolled in this Plan is 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.

OPM negotiates benefits and premiums with each plan annually. Benefit changes are effective January 1, 2000, and are shown on page 4. Premiums are listed 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. Health plan representatives and Office of Personnel Management staff have worked cooperatively to make portions of this brochure clearer. In it you will find common, everyday words, except for necessary technical terms; "you" and other personal pronouns; active voice; and short sentences.

We refer to First Priority Health HMO as "this Plan" throughout this brochure even though in other legal documents, you will see a plan referred to as a carrier.

These changes do not affect the benefits or services we provide. We have rewritten this brochure only to make it more understandable.

We have not rewritten the Benefits section of this brochure. You will find new benefits language next year.

How to use this brochure

This brochure has eight sections. Each section has important information you should read. If you want to compare this Plan's benefits with benefits from other FEHB plans, you will find that the brochures have the same format and similar information to make comparisons easier.

Health Maintenance Organizations (HMO). This Plan is an HMO. Turn to this section for a brief description of HMOs and how they work.

How we change for 2000. If you are a current member and want to see how we have changed, read this section.

How to get benefits. Make sure you read this section; it tells you how to get services and how we operate.

What to do if we deny your claim or request for service. This section tells you what to do if you disagree with our decision not to pay for your claim or to deny your request for a service.

Benefits. Look here to see the benefits we will provide as well as specific exclusions and limitations. You will also find information about non-FEHB benefits.

General exclusions – Things we don't cover. Look here to see benefits that we will not provide.

Limitations – Rules that affect your benefits. This section describes limits that can affect your benefits.

FEHB Facts. Read this for information about the Federal Employees Health Benefits (FEHB) Program.

Section 1. Health Maintenance Organizations

Health maintenance organizations (HMOs) are health plans that require you to see Plan providers: specific physicians, hospitals and other providers that contract with us. These providers coordinate your health care services. The care you receive includes preventative care such as routine office visits, physical exams, well-baby care and immunizations, as well as treatment for illness and injury.

When you receive services from our providers, you will not have to submit claim forms or pay bills. However, you must pay copayments and coinsurance listed in this brochure.

When you receive emergency services 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. Our providers follow generally accepted medical practice when prescribing any course of treatment.

Section 2. How we change for 2000

Program-wide changes

To keep your premium as low as possible OPM has set a minimum copay of \$10 for all primary care office visits.

This year, you have a right to more information about this Plan, care management, our networks, facilities, and providers.

If you have a chronic or disabling condition, and your provider leaves the Plan at our request, you may continue to see your specialist for up to 90 days. If your provider leaves the Plan and you are in the second or third trimester of pregnancy, you may be able to continue seeing your OB/GYN until the end of your postpartum care. You have similar rights if this Plan leaves the FEHB program.

You may review and obtain copies of your medical records on request. If you need copies of your medical records, ask your health care provider for them. You may ask that a physician amend a record that is not accurate, relevant, or complete. If the physician does not amend your record, you may add a brief statement to it. If they do not provide you your records, call us and we will assist you.

If you are over age 50, all FEHB plans will cover a screening sigmoidoscopy every five years. This screening is for colorectal cancer.

Changes to this Plan

Your share of the non postal premium will increase by 13.1% for Self Only or 22.1% for Self and Family.

Diabetic supplies and outpatient self management training and education are covered:

- The cost of diabetic equipment and supplies, including blood glucose monitors, monitor supplies, insulin, injection aids, syringes, insulin infusion devices, pharmacological agents for controlling blood sugar and orthotics with a \$8 member copay.

60 outpatient mental health visits are now covered. Inpatient days may be converted to outpatient days on a one (1) for two (2) basis.

Mail Order Prescription Drug Program offers a 90 day supply of medication for \$16 member copayment.

Prescription drug Zyban for smoking cessation.

Section 3. How to get benefits

What is this Plan's service area?

To enroll with us, you must live or work in First Priority Health's service area. This is where our providers practice. Our service area is: In Pennsylvania, all of Bradford, Carbon, Clinton, Lackawanna, Luzerne, Lycoming, Monroe, Pike, Sullivan, Susquehanna, Tioga, Wayne, and Wyoming counties.

You may also enroll with us if you live or work in the following places: In Pennsylvania, all of Bradford, Carbon, Clinton, Lackawanna, Luzerne, Lycoming, Monroe, Pike, Sullivan, Susquehanna, Tioga, Wayne and Wyoming counties.

Ordinarily, you must get your care from providers who contract with us. If you receive care outside our service area, we will pay only for emergency care. 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.

How much do I pay for services?

You must share the cost of some services. This is called either a copayment (a set dollar amount) or coinsurance (a set percentage of charges). Please remember you must pay this amount when you receive services.

Your out of pocket expenses for benefits covered under this Plan are limited to the stated copayments which are required for a few benefits.

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

Do I have to submit claims?

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 file a claim, please send us all of the documents for your claim as soon as possible. You must submit claims by December 31 of the year after the year you received the service. Either OPM or we can extend this deadline if you show that circumstances beyond your control prevented you from filing on time.

Who provides my health care?

The Plan is an individual practice prepayment plan. It offers medical care for both the prevention of disease and the treatment of serious illnesses. The Plan has over 550 participating primary care doctors and over 1615 participating specialist physicians, representing a wide range of areas of medicine. All participating doctors practice in their own offices in the community.

You must select a participating primary care doctor for each covered family member. Covered benefits are available only when rendered by, or coordinated through, your primary care doctor. Always receive a referral from your primary care doctor before obtaining covered services from another doctor or obtaining specialty services. In a life threatening emergency, seek treatment immediately, and then contact your primary care doctor. Services not authorized by your primary care doctor are not covered.

What do I do if my primary care physician leaves the Plan?

Call us. We will help you select a new one.

Section 3. How to get benefits *continued*

What do I do if I need to go into the hospital?

Talk to your Plan physician. If you need to be hospitalized, your primary care physician or specialist will make the necessary hospital arrangements and supervise your care.

What do I do if I'm in the hospital when I join this Plan?

First, call our customer service department at 800/822-8753. If you are new to the FEHB Program, we will arrange for you to receive care. If you are currently in the FEHB Program and are switching 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 became a member of this Plan; whichever happens first.

These provisions only apply to the person who is hospitalized.

How do I get specialty care?

Your primary care physician will arrange your referral to a specialist. A woman may see her plan gynecologist for her annual routine exam without a referral.

If you need to see a specialist frequently because of a chronic, complex, or serious medical condition, your primary care physician will develop a treatment plan that allows you to see your specialist for a certain number of visits without additional referrals. Your primary care physician will use our criteria when creating your treatment plan. The physician will have to get an authorization, or approval, beforehand from First Priority Health's Medical Director.

What do I do if I am seeing a specialist when I enroll?

Your primary care physician will decide what treatment you need. If they decide 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.

What do I do if my 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.

But, what if I have a serious illness and my provider leaves the Plan or this Plan leaves the Program?

Please contact us if you believe your condition is chronic or disabling. You may be able to continue seeing your provider for up to 90 days after we notify you that we are terminating our contract with the provider (unless the termination is for cause). If you are in the second or third trimester of pregnancy, you may continue to see your OB/GYN until the end of your postpartum care.

You may also be able to continue seeing your provider if your plan drops out of the FEHB Program and you enroll in a new FEHB plan. Contact the new plan and explain that you have a serious or chronic condition, or are in your second or third trimester. Your new plan will pay for or provide your care for up to 90 days after you receive notice that your prior plan is leaving the FEHB Program. If you are in your second or third trimester, your new plan will pay for the OB/GYN care you receive from your current provider until the end of your postpartum care.

How do you authorize medical services?

Your physician must get our approval before sending you to a hospital, referring you to a specialist, or recommending follow-up care. Before giving approval, we consider if the service is medically necessary, and if it follows generally accepted medical practice.

Section 3. How to get benefits *continued*

How do you decide if a service is experimental or investigational?

The following describes this Plan's criteria for determining when a medical treatment or procedure or a drug, device or biological product is experimental or investigational.

The First Priority Health Medical Director determines if a treatment, procedure, facility, equipment, drug, device, or supply is Experimental or investigative by whether it is:

- The subject of written investigational or research protocol;
- The subject of written informed consent;
- The subject of an on-going phase I, II, or III clinical trial or,

Evidence exists, as reflected in at least two published Peer reviewed Medical Literature Publications:

- That the service is recognized by a majority of these practicing the appropriate medical specialty as being safe and effective for use in the treatment of the particular condition in question; and
- That the service has a definite positive effect on health outcomes;
- That over time the service leads to improvement in health outcomes;
- That the service is at least effective in improving health outcomes as established technology or is not employable; and
- That improvement in health outcomes is possible in standard conditions of medical practice outside clinical investigatory settings.

Section 4. What to do if we deny your claim or request for service

If we deny services or won't pay your claim, you may ask us to reconsider our decision. Your request must:

1. Be in writing,
2. Refer to specific brochure wording in explaining why you believe our decision is wrong; and
3. Be made within six months from the date of our initial denial or refusal. We may extend this time limit if you show that you were unable to make a timely request due to reasons beyond your control.

We have 30 days from the date we receive your reconsideration request to:

1. Maintain our denial in writing;
2. Pay the claim;
3. Arrange for a health care provider to give you the service; or
4. Ask for more information

If we ask your medical provider for more information, we will send you a copy of our request. We must make a decision within 30 days after we receive the additional information. If we do not receive the requested information within 60 days, we will make our decision based on the information we already have.

When may I ask OPM to review a denial?

You may ask OPM to review the denial after you ask us to reconsider our initial denial or refusal. OPM will determine if we correctly applied the terms of our contract when we denied your claim or request for service.

Section 4. What to do if we deny your claim or request for service

continued

What if I have a serious or life threatening condition and you haven't responded to my request for service?

Call us 1-800-822-8753 and we will expedite our review.

What if you have denied my request for care and my condition is serious or life threatening?

If we expedite your review due to a serious medical condition and deny your claim, we will inform OPM so that they can give your claim expedited treatment too. Alternatively, you can call OPM's Health Benefits Division IV at (202) 606-0737 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Serious or life-threatening conditions are ones that may cause permanent loss of bodily functions or death if they are not treated as soon as possible.

Are there other time limits?

You must write to OPM and ask them to review our decision within 90 days after we uphold our initial denial or refusal of service. You may also ask OPM to review your claim if:

1. We do not answer your request within 30 days. In this case, OPM must receive your request within 120 days of the date you asked us to reconsider your claim.
2. You provided us with additional information we asked for, and we did not answer within 30 days. In this case, OPM must receive your request within 120 days of the date we asked you for additional information.

What do I send to OPM?

Your request must be complete, or OPM will return it to you. You must send the following information:

1. A statement about why you believe our decision is wrong, based on specific benefit provisions in this brochure;
2. Copies of documents that support your claim, such as physicians' letters, operative reports, bills, medical records, and explanation of benefits (EOB) forms;
3. Copies of all letters you sent us about the claim;
4. Copies of all letters we sent you about the claim; and
5. Your daytime phone number and the best time to call.

If you want OPM to review different claims, you must clearly identify which documents apply to which claim.

Who can make the request?

Those who have a legal right to file a disputed claim with OPM are:

1. Anyone enrolled in the Plan;
2. The estate of a person once enrolled in the Plan; and
3. Medical providers, legal counsel, and other interested parties who are acting as the enrolled person's representative. They must send a copy of the person's specific written consent with the review request.

What address should I send my disputed claim ?

Send your request for review to: Office of Personnel Management, Office of Insurance Programs, Contract Division IV, P. O. Box 436, Washington, D. C. 20044.

What if OPM upholds the Plan's denial?

OPM's decision is final. There are no other administrative appeals. If OPM agrees with our 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 or supplies.

Section 4. What to do if we deny your claim or request for service

continued

What laws apply if I file a lawsuit?

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 made its decision on your claim. You may recover only the amount of benefits in dispute.

You (or a person acting on your behalf) may not sue to recover benefits on a claim for treatment, services, supplies, or drugs covered by us until you have completed the OPM review procedure described above.

Your records and the Privacy Act

Chapter 89 of title 5, United States Code allows OPM to use the information it collects from you and us to determine if our denial of your claim is correct. The information OPM collects during the review process becomes a permanent part of your disputed claims file, and is subject to the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act and the Privacy Act. OPM may disclose this information to support the disputed claim decision. If you file a lawsuit, this information will become part of the court record.

Section 5. Benefits – Medical/Surgical Benefits

What is covered

A comprehensive range of preventive, diagnostic and treatment services is provided by Plan doctors and other Plan providers. This includes all necessary office visits; you pay a \$10 office visit copay, but no additional copay for laboratory tests and X-rays. Within the Service Area, house calls will be provided if in the judgment of the Plan doctor such care is necessary and appropriate. You pay a \$10 copay for a doctor's house call; you pay nothing for home visits by nurses and home health aides.

Plan doctors also provide all necessary medical or surgical care in a hospital or extended care facility, at no additional cost to you.

The following services are included:

- Preventive care, including well-baby care and periodic check-ups
- One Mammography screening per calendar year is covered for all members age 40 and over whether or not directed toward a definite condition of disease or injury. Mammograms which are recommended by a physician are covered for all subscribers. Benefits for mammography screening are payable only if performed by a mammography service provider who is properly certified by the Department of Health in accordance with Mammography Quality Assurance Act of 1992.
- Routine immunizations and boosters
- Consultations by specialists, you pay \$10.
- Diagnostic procedures, such as laboratory tests and X-rays
- Complete obstetrical (maternity) care for all covered females, including prenatal, delivery and postnatal care by a Plan doctor (office visit copays are waived for obstetrical care, after the first visit). The mother, at her option, may remain in the hospital up to 48 hours after a regular delivery and 96 hours after a cesarean delivery. Inpatient stays will be extended if medically necessary. If enrollment in the Plan is terminated during pregnancy, benefits will not be provided after coverage under the Plan has ended. Ordinary nursery care of the newborn child during the covered portion of the mother's hospital confinement for maternity will be covered under either a Self Only or Self and Family enrollment; other care of an infant who requires definitive treatment will be covered only if the infant is covered under a Self and Family enrollment.

CARE MUST BE RECEIVED FROM OR ARRANGED BY PLAN DOCTORS

Section 5. Benefits *continued*

- Voluntary sterilization and family planning services
- Diagnosis and treatment of diseases of the eye
- Allergy testing and treatment, including test and treatment materials (such as allergy serum)
- The insertion of internal prosthetic devices, such as pacemakers and artificial joints
- External breast prosthesis and surgical bras
- Cornea, heart, kidney, lung, single lung (only for primary fibrosis, cystic fibrosis, primary pulmonary hypertension, end stage pulmonary disease and emphysema), double lung (only for cystic fibrosis), pancreas, and liver transplants. 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, testicular, mediastinal, retroperitoneal and ovarian germ cell tumors, breast cancer, multiple myeloma, and epithelial ovarian cancer. Related medical and hospital expenses of the donor are covered when the recipient is covered by this Plan.
- Women who undergo mastectomies may, at their option, have this procedure performed on an inpatient basis and remain in the hospital up to 48 hours after the procedure.
- Dialysis
- Chemotherapy, radiation therapy, and inhalation therapy
- Surgical treatment of morbid obesity
- Home health services of nurses and health aides, including intravenous fluids and medications when prescribed by your Plan doctor, who will periodically review the program for continuing appropriateness and need
- All necessary medical or surgical care in a hospital or extended care facility from Plan doctors and other Plan providers.

Limited benefits

Oral and maxillofacial surgery is provided for nondental surgical and hospitalization procedures for congenital defects, such as cleft lip and cleft palate, and for medical or surgical procedures occurring within or adjacent to the oral cavity or sinuses including, but not limited to surgery for bone impacted teeth, treatment of fractures and excision of tumors and cysts. All other procedures involving the teeth or areas surrounding the teeth are not covered, including shortening of the mandible or maxillae for cosmetic purposes, correction of malocclusions, and any dental care involved in treatment of temporomandibular joint (TMJ) pain dysfunction syndrome.

Reconstructive surgery will be provided to correct a condition resulting from a functional defect or from an injury or surgery that has produced a major effect on the member's appearance and if the condition can reasonably be expected to be corrected by such surgery. The accident or surgery must occur on or after the effective date of the member's coverage in any plan under the FEHB Program. A patient and her attending physician may decide whether to have breast reconstruction surgery following a mastectomy and whether surgery on the other breast is needed to produce a symmetrical appearance

Short-term rehabilitative therapy (physical, speech, occupational, and cognitive) is provided on an inpatient or outpatient basis for forty-five (45) visits per calendar year if significant improvement can be expected within that time; you pay nothing. Speech therapy is limited to treatment of certain speech impairments of organic origin. Occupational therapy is limited to services that assist the member to achieve and maintain self-care and improved functioning in other activities of daily living.

Section 5. Benefits *continued*

Diagnosis and treatment of infertility is covered (excluding dry treatment); you pay \$10 office visit copay. Oral fertility drugs are covered (see Prescription Drug Benefits for appropriate copay). Injectable fertility drugs are not covered. Artificial insemination, intravaginal insemination (IVI); intracervical insemination (ICI) and intrauterine insemination (IUI) is covered; you pay \$10; cost of donor sperm is not covered. Other assisted reproductive technology (ART) procedures such as InVitro fertilization and embryo transfer are not covered.

Cardiac rehabilitation following a heart transplant, bypass surgery or a myocardial infarction, is provided for acute care or rehabilitation hospital programs for up to 36 sessions; you pay nothing.

Durable medical equipment, the initial provision of prosthetic appliances (such as artificial limbs and lenses following cataract removal), and the initial provision of orthopedic braces (such as braces for the treatment of congenital defects and foot orthotics) are covered. Instruction and appropriate services required to properly use the item such as attachment and insertion are covered. The Plan pays all charges up to \$2,500 per calendar year for any combination of these items. You pay all charges thereafter.

Out-of-area care for unexpected conditions is covered if (a) the member is traveling in the service area of an HMO that participates in the HMO Blue-USA Away From Home Care Program, and (b) the member contacts the HMO Blue-USA Away From Home Care Coordinator at 1-800-4HMO-USA and coordinates care for the unexpected condition through the coordinator. Emergencies need not be coordinated through this program.

Administration and processing of whole blood, blood plasma and blood derivatives are covered.

What is not covered

- Physical examinations that are not necessary for medical reasons, such as those required for obtaining or continuing employment, insurance, or attending school or camp, or travel
- Blood and blood derivatives (no charge if replacement is arranged by member)
- Reversal of voluntary, surgically-induced sterility
- Surgery primarily for cosmetic purposes
- Long-term rehabilitative therapy
- Manipulation of the spine
- Homemaker services
- Transplants not specified as covered
- Weight reduction programs

Hospital/Extended Care Benefits

What is covered Hospital care

The Plan provides a comprehensive range of benefits with no dollar or day limit when you are hospitalized under the care of a Plan doctor. You pay nothing per inpatient admission. All necessary services are covered, including:

- Semiprivate room accommodations; when a Plan doctor determines it is medically necessary, the doctor may prescribe private accommodations or private duty nursing care
- Specialized care units, such as intensive care or cardiac care units

CARE MUST BE RECEIVED FROM OR ARRANGED BY PLAN DOCTORS

Section 5. Benefits *continued*

Extended care

The Plan provides a comprehensive range of benefits with no dollar or day limit when full-time skilled nursing care is necessary and confinement in a skilled nursing facility is in lieu of hospitalization and approved by the Plan. You pay nothing per inpatient admission. All necessary services are covered, including:

- Bed, board and general nursing care.
- Drugs, biologicals, supplies and equipment ordinarily provided or arranged by the skilled nursing facility when prescribed by a Plan doctor.
- Administration and processing of whole blood, blood plasma and blood derivatives.

Hospice care

Supportive and palliative care for a terminally ill member is covered in the home or hospice facility. Services include inpatient and outpatient care, and family counseling; these services are provided under the direction of a Plan doctor who certifies that the patient is in the terminal stages of illness, with a life expectancy of approximately six months or less.

Ambulance service

Benefits are provided for ambulance transportation ordered or authorized by a Plan doctor.

Limited benefits

Inpatient dental procedures

Hospitalization for certain dental procedures is covered when a Plan doctor determines there is a need for hospitalization for reasons totally unrelated to the dental procedure; the Plan will cover the hospitalization, but not the cost of the professional dental services. Conditions for which hospitalization would be covered include hemophilia and heart disease; the need for anesthesia, by itself, is not such a condition.

Acute inpatient detoxification

Hospitalization for medical treatment of substance abuse is limited to emergency care, diagnosis, treatment of medical conditions, and medical management of withdrawal symptoms (acute detoxification) if the Plan doctor determines that outpatient management is not medically appropriate. See page 15 for nonmedical substance abuse benefits.

What is not covered

- Personal comfort items, such as telephone and television
- Blood and blood derivatives (no charge if replacement is arranged by member)
- Custodial care, rest cures, domiciliary or convalescent care

Emergency Benefits

What is a medical emergency?

A medical emergency is the sudden and unexpected onset of a condition or an injury that you, as a prudent layperson, 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. Other 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 the Plan may determine are medical emergencies- what they all have in common is the need for quick action.

CARE MUST BE RECEIVED FROM OR ARRANGED BY PLAN DOCTORS

Section 5. Benefits *continued*

Emergencies within the service area

If you are in an emergency situation, please call your primary care physician. 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 the Plan. You or a family member should notify the Plan within 48 hours. It is your responsibility to ensure that the Plan has been timely notified.

If you need to be hospitalized, the Plan must be notified within 48 hours or on the first working day following your admission, unless it was not reasonably possible to notify the Plan 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 the Plan or provided by the Plan providers.

Plan pays...

Reasonable charges for emergency services to the extent the services would have been covered if received from Plan providers.

You pay...

\$10 per visit at a doctor's office, a \$25 copayment per visit at a hospital emergency room or outpatient department for emergency services which are covered benefits of this Plan. If the emergency results in admission to a hospital, the emergency care copay is waived. If you are referred to the emergency room by your primary care doctor or the Plan, and services could have been provided in the primary care doctor's office, you pay only the \$10 office visit copay. For reimbursement, you must submit the appropriate referrals from your primary care doctor to the Plan within five business days.

Emergencies outside the Service Area

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, the Plan must be notified within 48 hours or on the first working day following your admission, unless it was not reasonably possible to notify the Plan 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. To be covered by this Plan, any follow-up care recommended by non-Plan providers must be approved by the Plan or provided by Plan providers.

Plan pays...

Reasonable charges for emergency care services to the extent the services would have been covered if received from Plan providers.

You pay...

\$10 per visit at a doctor's office, a \$25 copayment per visit at a hospital emergency room or outpatient department for emergency services which are covered benefits of this Plan. If the emergency results in admission to a hospital, the emergency care copay is waived.

What is covered

- Emergency care at a doctor's office or an urgent care center
- Emergency care as an outpatient or inpatient at a hospital, including doctors' services
- Ambulance service approved by the Plan

Section 5. Benefits *continued*

What is not covered

- Elective care or nonemergency 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

Filing claims for non-Plan providers

With your authorization, the Plan will pay benefits directly to the providers of your emergency care upon receipt of their claims. Physician claims should be submitted on the HCFA 1500 claim form. If you are required to pay for the services, submit itemized bills and your receipts to the Plan along with an explanation of the services and the identification information from your ID card.

Payment will be sent to you (or the provider if you did not pay the bill), unless the claim is denied. If it is denied, you will receive notice of the decision, including the reasons for the denial and the provisions of the contract on which denial was based. If you disagree with the Plan's decision, you may request reconsideration in accordance with the disputed claims procedure described on page 7.

Mental Conditions/Substance Abuse Benefits

Mental conditions

What is covered

To the extent shown below, this Plan provides the following services necessary for the diagnosis and treatment of acute psychiatric conditions, including the treatment of mental illness or disorders. These services are covered only when a member, family member, or member's primary care doctor contacts the Regional Referral Center (RRC) at 1-800-599-2428 and coordinates the member's care before services are rendered.

- Diagnostic evaluation
- Psychological testing
- Psychiatric treatment (including individual and group therapy)
- Hospitalization (including inpatient professional services)

Outpatient care

Up to 60 outpatient visits to Plan doctors, consultants, or other psychiatric personnel each calendar year. You pay a \$10 copayment per visit.

Out-of-area students can receive outpatient mental health services out of the area if: a) the primary care doctor and RRC coordinate the care, and b) the member maintains full-time student status and attends classes. Member must return to the Plan's service area if inpatient treatment is required.

Inpatient care

Up to 35 days of hospitalization each calendar year; you pay nothing for the first 35 days - all charges thereafter. You may convert all inpatient days for partial hospitalization to outpatient days on a 1 for 2 basis.

What is not covered

- Care for psychiatric conditions which in the professional judgment of Plan doctors are not subject to significant improvement through relatively short-term treatment.
- Psychiatric evaluation or therapy on court order or as a condition of parole or probation, unless determined by a Plan doctor to be necessary and appropriate.
- Psychological testing when not medically necessary to determine the appropriate treatment of a short-term psychiatric condition
- Non-emergency mental health care services not coordinated through the Regional Referral Center.

Section 5. Benefits *continued*

Substance abuse

What is covered

This Plan provides medical and hospital services such as acute detoxification services for the medical, non-psychiatric aspects of substance abuse including alcoholism and drug addiction, the same as for any other illness or condition and, to the extent shown below, the services necessary for diagnosis and treatment. These services are covered only when a member, family member, or member's primary care doctor contacts the Regional Referral Center (RRC) at 1-800-599-2428 and coordinates the member's care before services are rendered.

Outpatient care

Up to 60 outpatient visits for substance abuse per calendar year. You pay nothing; up to 30 visits may be exchanged on a 2 for 1 basis for an additional 15 days of non-hospital residential facility inpatient care; there is a 120 visit lifetime maximum. Out-of-area students can receive outpatient out-of-area treatment for substance abuse if: a) the primary care doctor and RRC coordinate the care, and b) the member maintains full-time student status and attends classes. Member must return to the Plan's service area if inpatient treatment is required.

Inpatient care

Inpatient treatment for substance abuse is provided for up to 30 days of treatment per calendar year in a non-hospital residential facility, subject to a 90 day lifetime maximum. No copayment will be required for the first course of treatment. A copay of 50% of charges will be required for the second and subsequent courses of non-hospital residential facility treatment, until the lifetime maximum is reached.

What is not covered

- Non-emergency substance abuse services not coordinated through the Regional Referral Center.

Prescription Drug Benefits

What is covered

Prescription drugs prescribed by a Plan or referral doctor and obtained at a Plan pharmacy will be dispensed for up to a 34-day supply. You pay an \$8 copay per prescription unit or refill. Unexpected prescriptions obtained beyond a reasonable distance of the member's Plan pharmacy will be reimbursed at 75% of the cost, less the \$8 copayment. Generic drugs will be substituted where legally possible for brand name drugs, unless the member elects to receive the brand-name drug, and pays the cost above the cost of the generic drug, plus the generic copayment. Payment is to the pharmacy.

Drugs are prescribed by Plan doctors and dispensed in accordance with the Plan's drug formulary. The Plan selects formulary drugs on the basis of effectiveness and cost. Non-formulary drugs will be covered when prescribed by a Plan doctor.

Prescription drug mail order service through Advance Paradigm Mail Services, Inc. This service will provide significant cost savings when obtaining prescription medication. Through the mail order drug program, you can receive a 90 day supply of medication for twice your monthly copayment; You pay a \$16 copay per prescription unit. (The mail order service should only be utilized for medication when supplied in 90 day increments, so please do not send a 30 day supply prescription.) You will need to complete a prescription drug order form provided by member services.

Section 5. Benefits *continued*

Covered medications and accessories include:

- Drugs for which a prescription is required by Federal law
- Insulin, Disposable needles and syringes needed for injecting prescribed medication. Urine test or reagent strips, tablets or tape; blood glucose test or reagent strips for home blood glucose monitor; calibrated solution (high/low control); lancets; Insulin pen/pen needles; humulin insulin vials/cartridges; oral diabetic drugs; and spring-powdered device for lancets.
- Intravenous fluids and medication for home use, implantable drugs, and some injectable drugs are covered under Medical and Surgical Benefits.

Oral fertility drugs

Contraceptives Options; such as oral contraceptives, contraceptive devices and related services

Limited Benefits

Drugs to treat sexual dysfunction are limited. Contact Plan for dose limits. You pay an \$8 copay for up to the dosage limit and all charges above that.

Zyban, a smoking cessation drug. Coverage for up to 12 weeks.

What is not covered

- Drugs available without a prescription or for which there is a non prescription equivalent available
- Drugs obtained at a non-Plan pharmacy except for out-of-area emergencies (see above)
- Vitamins and nutritional substances which can be purchased without a prescription
- Medical supplies such as dressings and antiseptics
- Drugs for cosmetic purposes
- Drugs to enhance athletic performance
- Injectable fertility drugs are not covered

Other Benefits

Vision care

What is covered

In addition to the medical and surgical benefits provided for diagnosis and treatment of diseases of the eye, this Plan provides the following vision care benefits from Plan providers.

- One routine annual eye examination by a participating ophthalmologist, once per calendar year. You pay an office visit copayment of \$10.
- Reimbursement up to \$35 toward the purchase of prescription lenses and frames, including contact lenses, once in a 24-month period. For reimbursement, send your "paid in full" receipt with your First Priority Health Identification Number to First Priority Health, Claims Department, 70 North Main Street, Wilkes-Barre, PA 18711. We must receive your receipt within one year of the date of service. You pay all charges in excess of \$35.

What is not covered

- Eye exercises

CARE MUST BE RECEIVED FROM OR ARRANGED BY PLAN DOCTORS

Non-FEHB Benefits Available to Plan Members

The benefits described on this page are neither offered nor guaranteed under the contract with the FEHB Program, but are made available to all enrollees and family members who are members of this Plan. The cost of the benefits described on this page is not included in the FEHB premium; any charges for these services do not count toward any FEHB deductibles, out-of-pocket maximum copay charges, etc. These benefits are not subject to the FEHB disputed claims procedures.

Exercise Program

Members can enroll in programs which focus on exercise and fitness.

Nutrition Program

Members can enroll in programs regarding a safe, effective, healthy approach to eating.

Prenatal Program

Members can enroll in health education programs concerning such topics as pregnancy planning and prepared child-birth.

Smoking Cessation Program

Members can enroll in programs to quit smoking.

For further information on these programs, members may call 1-800-258-4080.

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 or condition.

We do not cover the following:

Services, drugs or supplies that are not medically necessary;

Services not required according to accepted standards of medical, dental, or psychiatric practice;

Care by non-Plan providers except for authorized referrals or emergencies (see Emergency Benefits).

Experimental or investigational procedures, treatments, drugs or devices;

Procedures, services, drugs and 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 ;

Procedures, services, drugs and supplies related to sex transformations;

Services or supplies you receive from a provider or facility barred from the FEHB Program; and

Expenses you incurred while you were not enrolled in this Plan.

Section 7. Limitations – Rules that affect your benefits

Medicare

Tell us if you or a family member is enrolled in Medicare Part A or B. Medicare will determine who is responsible for paying for medical services and we will coordinate the payments. On occasion, you may need to file a Medicare claim form.

If you are eligible for Medicare, you may enroll in a Medicare+Choice plan and also remain enrolled with us.

If you are an annuitant or former spouse, you can suspend your FEHB coverage and enroll in a Medicare+Choice plan when one is available in your area. For information on suspending your FEHB enrollment and changing to a Medicare+Choice plan, 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.

If you involuntarily lose coverage, or move out of the Medicare+Choice service area, you may re-enroll in the FEHB Program at any time.

If you do not have Medicare Part A or B, you can still be covered under the FEHB Program and your benefits will not be reduced. We cannot require you to enroll in Medicare.

For information on Medicare+Choice plans, contact your local Social Security Administration (SSA) office or request it from SSA at 1-800/638-6833.

Section 7. Limitations – Rules that affect your benefits *continued*

Other group insurance coverage

When anyone has coverage with us and with another group health plan, it is called double coverage. You must tell us if you or a family member has double coverage. You must also send us documents about other insurance if we ask for them.

When you have double coverage, one plan is the primary payer; it pays benefits first. The other plan is secondary; it pays benefits next. We decide which insurance is primary according to the National Association of Insurance Commissioners' Guidelines.

If we pay second, we will determine what the reasonable charge for the benefit should be. After the first plan pays, we will pay either what is left of the reasonable charge or our regular benefit, whichever is less. We will not pay more than the reasonable charge. If we are the secondary payer, we may be entitled to receive payment from your primary plan.

We will always provide you with the benefits described in this brochure. Remember: even if you do not file a claim with your other plan, you must still tell us that you have double coverage.

Circumstances beyond our control

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

When others are responsible for injuries

When you receive money to compensate you for medical or hospital care for injuries or illness that another person caused, you must reimburse us for whatever services we paid for. 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.

TRICARE

TRICARE is the health care program for members, eligible dependents, and retirees of the military. TRICARE includes the CHAMPUS program. If both TRICARE and this Plan cover you, we are the primary payer. 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 determine they must provide;

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 the OWCP or similar agency has paid its maximum benefits for your treatment, we will provide your benefits.

Medicaid

We pay first if both Medicaid and this Plan cover you.

Other Government Agencies

We do not cover services and supplies that a local, State, or Federal Government agency directly or indirectly pays for.

Section 8. FEHB FACTS

You have a right to information about your HMO.

OPM requires that all FEHB plans comply with the Patients' Bill of Rights, which gives you the right to information about your health plan, its networks, providers and facilities. You can also find out about care management, which includes medical practice guidelines, disease management programs and how we determine if procedures are experimental or investigational. OPM's website (www.opm.gov) lists the specific types of information that we must make available to you.

If you want specific information about us, call 800/822-8753, or write to 70 North Main Street, Wilkes Barre, PA 18711. You may also contact us by fax at 570/831-2240, or visit our website at [HYPERLINK http://www.bcnepa.com](http://www.bcnepa.com).

Where do I get information about enrolling in the FEHB Program?

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
The next Open Season for enrollment.

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.

When are my benefits and premiums effective?

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 January 1.

What happens when I 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, which is described later in this section.

What types of coverage are available for me and my 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 or step children your employing or retirement office authorizes coverage for. Under certain circumstances, you may also get 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 you give birth or add the child to your family. The benefits and premiums for your Self and Family enrollment begin on the first day of the pay period in which the child is born or becomes an eligible family member.

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.

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

Section 8. FEHB FACTS *continued*

Are my medical and claims records 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 Worker's
- Compensation Programs (OWCP), when coordinating benefit payment 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.

Information for new members

Identification cards

We will send you an Identification (ID) card. Use your copy of the Health Benefits Election Form, SF-2809, or the OPM annuitant confirmation letter until you receive your ID card. You can also use an Employee Express confirmation letter.

What if I paid a deductible under my old plan?

Your old plan's deductible continues until our coverage begins.

Pre-existing conditions

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

When you lose benefits

What happens if my enrollment in this Plan 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 former spouse coverage or Temporary Continuation of 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 more information about your coverage choices.

What is former spouse coverage?

Temporary Continuation of Coverage (TCC). If you leave Federal service or if you lose coverage because you no longer qualify as a family member, you may be eligible for 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.

What is TCC?

Get the RI 79-27, which describes TCC, and the RI 70-5, the Guide to Federal Employees Health Benefits Plans for Temporary Continuation of Coverage and Former Spouse Enrollees from your employing or retirement office.

Section 8. FEHB FACTS *continued*

Key points about TCC:

You can pick a new plan;
If you leave Federal service, you can receive TCC for up to 18 months after you separate;
If you no longer qualify as a family member, you can receive TCC for up to 36 months;
Your TCC enrollment starts after regular coverage ends.

If you or your employing office delay processing your request, you still have to pay premiums from the 32nd day after your regular coverage ends, even if several months have passed.

You pay the total premium, and generally a 2-percent administrative charge. The government does not share your costs.

You receive another 31-day extension of coverage when your TCC enrollment ends, unless you cancel your TCC or stop paying the premium.

You are not eligible for TCC if you can receive regular FEHB Program benefits.

How do I enroll in TCC?

If you leave Federal service your employing office will notify you of your right to enroll under TCC. You must enroll within 60 days of leaving, or receiving this notice, whichever is later.

Children: You must notify your employing or retirement office within 60 days after your child is no longer an eligible family member. That office will send you information about enrolling in TCC. You must enroll your child within 60 days after they become eligible for TCC, or receive this notice, whichever is later.

Former spouses: You or your former spouse must notify your employing or retirement office within 60 days of one of these qualifying events:

Divorce

Loss of spouse equity coverage within 36 months after the divorce.

Your employing or retirement office will then send your former spouse information about enrolling in TCC. Your former spouse must enroll within 60 days after the event, which qualifies them for coverage, or receiving the information, whichever is later.

Note: Your child or former spouse loses TCC eligibility unless you or your former spouse notify your employing or retirement office within the 60-day deadline.

How can I convert to individual coverage?

You may convert to an 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 if individual coverage is available. 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.

Section 8. FEHB FACTS *continued*

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.

How can I get 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. You must arrange for the other coverage within 63 days of leaving this Plan. Your new plan must reduce or eliminate waiting periods, limitations or exclusions for health related conditions based on the information in the certificate.

If you have been enrolled with us for less than 12 months, but were previously enrolled in other FEHB plans, you may request a certificate from them, as well.

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 800/822-2753 and explain the situation.

If we do not resolve the issue, call or write:

THE HEALTH CARE FRAUD HOTLINE

1-202-418-3300
U.S. Office of Personnel Management
Office of the Inspector General Fraud Hotline
1900 E Street, NW, Room 6400
Washington, D.C. 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 they:

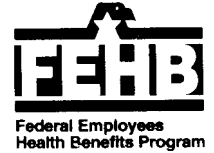
Try to obtain services for a person who is not an eligible family member; or

Are no longer enrolled in the Plan and try to obtain benefits.

Your agency may also take administrative action against you.



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**United States Office of
 Personnel Management**



2000 Rate Information for

First Priority Health of Northeastern Pennsylvania

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 most career U. S. Postal Service employees. In 2000, two categories of contribution rates, referred to as Category A rates and Category B rates, will apply for certain career employees. If you are a career employee, who is not a member of a special postal employment class, refer to the category definitions in, The Guide to Federal Employees Health Benefits Plans for United States Postal Service Employees, RI 70-2 to determine which rate applies to you.

Postal rates do not apply to non-career postal employees, postal retirees, certain special postal employment classes or associate members of any postal employee organization. Such persons not subject to postal rates must refer to the applicable Guide to Federal Employees Health Benefits Plans.

Type of Enrollment	Code	<u>Non-Postal Premium</u>				<u>Postal Premium A</u>		<u>Postal Premium B</u>	
		<u>Biweekly</u>		<u>Monthly</u>		<u>Biweekly</u>		<u>Biweekly</u>	
		Gov't Share	Your Share	Gov't Share	Your Share	USPS Share	Your Share	USPS Share	Your Share

Self Only	C81	\$72.20	\$24.06	\$156.42	\$52.14	\$85.43	\$10.83	\$85.43	\$10.83
Self and Family	C82	\$175.97	\$72.17	\$381.27	\$156.37	\$207.74	\$40.40	\$201.02	\$47.12