

# DFEC's pharmacy benefits management program



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The U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) has begun implementation of a new contract to provide pharmacy benefit management (PBM) services to the Federal Employees' Compensation Act (FECA) program for all claims covered under FECA.

DOL's new PBM contractor is Optum Workers' Compensation Services of Florida (Optum). The FECA program's PBM will be responsible for pharmaceutical transactions, including, but not limited to, the im-

plementation of FECA program eligibility determinations and pricing for pharmaceutical drugs provided to FECA claimants.

Use of the Optum/FECA pharmacy program is mandatory for all FECA claimants. If claimants have refills available at a non-participating pharmacy, an Optum/FECA participating pharmacy may be able to transfer and receive the remaining refills.

The approximately 4,200 claimants who are receiving 90 MED (Morphine Equivalent Dosage) or higher of prescribed opioids and who are receiving services under an earlier limited PBM with Coventry/First Scripts were transferred to the Optum PBM effective April 1.

With the implementation of this contract, the FECA PBM will be expanded to the remainder of our FECA claimant population by May. The two phases for card distribution are as follows:

- Phase 1:** Welcome packets and new Optum pharmacy cards were mailed to the 4,200 claimants receiving 90 MED or higher. Those PBM cards became effective on April 1. Those cards bear the effective date in the center of the pharmacy card between the Optum and DOL seals, as depicted in the sample pharmacy card below:



- Phase 2:** Welcome packets and new Optum pharmacy cards were mailed to the remaining 200,000 claimants. Those PBM cards became effective on April 30. Those cards will bear the effective date in the center of the pharmacy card between the Optum and DOL seals, as depicted in the sample pharmacy card below:



Prescriptions will not be authorized at the pharmacy on or after the effective date printed on the recipient's card unless an Optum card that looks like one of the samples is presented at a participating pharmacy.

**“Claimants can search for participating pharmacies on the web at [ecomp/dol.gov](http://ecomp/dol.gov) or by contacting Optum at 833-332-2726.”**

Shifting to a national benefits manager program is expected to yield significant savings for OWCP and agencies like the Postal Service. The FECA PBM replaces a similar program instituted by the Postal Service.

If claimants have refills available at a non-participating pharmacy, an Optum/FECA participating pharmacy may be able to transfer and receive the remaining refills. Claimants can search for participating pharmacies at [ecomp.dol.gov](http://ecomp.dol.gov), or by contacting Optum at 833-332-2726. Use of the Optum/FECA pharmacy program is mandatory for all FECA claimants.