



STATE OF WISCONSIN
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: 15 Oct 2010
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Changes to the Federal Employee Health Benefits Program Notification Process

The Federal Employee Health Benefits Program (FEHBP) is health insurance coverage for active or retired Federal Employees. Enrollment in the plans is administered by the Office of Personnel Management (OPM). Here in Wisconsin there are many health insurance plans that participate in the FEHBP.

Generally, plans under the FEHBP help pay for the same kind of expenses as Medicare. FEHBP plans also provide coverage for prescription drugs, routine physicals, emergency care outside of the US and some preventive services that Medicare doesn't cover.

Ordinarily, if a person is enrolled in an FEHBP plan, they do not need to add a Medigap Policy since FEHBP and Medicare will coordinate benefits to provide comprehensive coverage for a wide range of medical expenses. Medicare law will determine which plan (FEHBP or Medicare) is primary or secondary.

Each year Federal Employees have an "Open Season" to make changes to their health plans. This year the Open Season runs from 8 November through 13 December. Participants will receive a card in the mail that will notify them of the Open Season. OPM has set up a website where information will be available. Beneficiaries will not receive printed information about the individual plans unless they call the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) and request that the printed material be sent to them. The office is attempting to reduce costs and to be friendlier to the environment. OPM will make the plan changes and choices available online beginning on 8 November. The link for this website is:

<http://www.opm.gov/insure/health/> .

If you want the OPM to send you printed information about the Open Season and your options,

Call [1-888-767-6738](tel:1-888-767-6738).

If you have additional questions about this or any Medicare-related insurance issues, contact the
State of Wisconsin Medigap Helpline at: 1 (800) 242-1060.

*By: Steve Shapiro
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