



FSA Debit Card Update.....

Over-the-Counter Purchases




Submitting of receipts for verification of prescription and over-the-counter (OTC) purchases that were made with your SHPS Spending Account Card will soon become history. The rules issued by the IRS in July 2006 (Notice 2006-69) will take effect on January 1, 2008. Because of this new regulation, merchants who accept the Spending Account Card (or any health care debit card) must implement an Inventory Information Approval System (IIAS).

When you swipe your card at the Point of Sale (POS), the merchants will validate that you are only purchasing an FSA eligible item and will provide SHPS with what is required to verify the transaction without any further action by you. That means no more need for you to send in receipts. Because the IRS requires only eligible, health-related expenses to be purchased with your card, SHPS recommends that you continue to save all your receipts.



For a complete list of retailers supporting IIAS, please refer to the document entitled "IIAS Participating Merchants" in the "Get Documents" section of the SHPS website www.shps.com. That list contains up to date information on the merchants who currently support or will be supporting the approval system. When you use your SHPS Spending Account Card for an eligible health care expense at one of the merchant locations listed, your purchase will be automatically authorized. This means your card will only be accepted for purchasing eligible items. If you are purchasing ineligible items, you will be asked for another form of payment.

As always, you can pay for eligible expenses with another form of payment and file a reimbursement request by fax or U.S. Mail. If you have any questions, please contact the customer service number on the back of your card.




QUESTION: I know I can claim mileage under the General and Limited Purpose Health Care Spending Account but it changes from year to year. What is the amount I can claim for the 2008 Plan Year?

ANSWER: Federal tax law lets you claim transportation expenses through your Health Care Spending Account that you pay for the medical care of yourself, your spouse or dependent. These expenses include transportation that's primarily for (and essential to) medical care.

For 2008, the mileage rate has been reduced from .20 (2007 mileage rate) to .19 per mile. In addition to the mileage rate, you may claim parking and toll fees.

VENDOR DIRECTORY

Minnesota Life	800-600-2519
Signature (Legal)	800-848-2012
Spectera (Vision)	800-638-3120
SHPS (Spending Accts)	800-893-0763
United Concordia (Dental)	866-215-2356
Cigna Dental	800-642-5810
The Standard	888-641-7186
AIG (Specified Illness)	866-849-2958
UNUM (Long-Term Care)	888-764-3539



Questions pertaining to the Health Plans and the Health Reimbursement Account should be directed to the Department of Community Health-SHBP at 404-651-6142 or 800-483-6983.

REMINDERS.....

If an employee has a change of address please update the address in PeopleSoft. If you are a Non-PeopleSoft Agency, please provide the change of address form to Flexible Benefits as well as State Health Benefits.

The Grace Period for Flexible Spending Account is from January 1, 2008 through March 15, 2008. Spending Account Claims for 2007 Plan Year must be posted marked on or before May 31, 2008.