



Division of Coal Mine Workers' Compensation (DCMWC)

Questions and answers about the Federal Black Lung Program

U.S. Department of Labor
Office of Workers' Compensation Programs (OWCP)
Division of Coal Mine Workers' Compensation (DCMWC)

The following material provides basic information about your pharmacy benefits, but it does not cover every possible exception or special circumstance, nor does it have the effect of law. Additionally, this information applies only if the Black Lung Disability Trust Fund is responsible for your medical benefits. If a private party, such as the Responsible Operator or its insurance carrier, is liable for your medical benefits, different procedures may apply. You may contact that private party directly or the District Office that handles your claim with questions about your medical benefits. STOP HEALTH CARE FRAUD. If you suspect any health care fraud, please call our toll-free number 1-800-347-2502.

Introduction

Like all coal miners who qualify for the U.S. Department of Labor's Federal Black Lung Program, you are entitled to pharmacy benefits for your pneumoconiosis (Black Lung condition). Spouses, family members, and survivors of coal miners are not entitled to pharmacy benefits. The Federal Black Lung Program has contracted with Optum to administer pharmacy benefits and provide optional durable medical equipment (DME), diagnostic services and testing services related to your medical treatment as authorized within your Federal Black Lung benefits.

The questions presented here are those most often asked by Black Lung Program beneficiaries about:

- The U.S. Department of Labor Black Lung Pharmacy Benefits Identification Card (pharmacy benefits card)
- Covered and non-covered pharmacy services
- The Optum retail and mail order pharmacy networks
- Optional services offered by Optum, including DME, diagnostic services, and testing services.

While this material gives basic information about your pharmacy benefits, it is not intended to cover every possible exception. For further information about special circumstances or anything that is not covered in the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) please write or call the District Office handling your claim. You can reach the District Office by calling toll-free, on business days, 9 a.m.–4 p.m. (ET): 1-800-347-2502 or by mail at:

U.S. Department of Labor OWCP/DCMWC
P.O. Box 8307
London, KY 40742-8307

Pharmacy FAQs:

Why am I receiving a new pharmacy benefits card?

The Division of Coal Mine Workers Compensation (DCMWC) entered into an agreement with a new pharmacy benefit administrator, Optum, to provide you with pharmacy services for prescriptions for your Black Lung condition(s). This card must be used at your pharmacy to obtain prescriptions starting on September 10, 2026.

**How do I learn more about pharmacies in the Optum network?**

Optum offers a nationwide network of more than 52,000 participating pharmacies, including retail, mail-order, and specialty options. If your preferred pharmacy is not currently part of the Optum network, it may contact Optum toll-free at 1-855-924-4688 to request enrollment and coordinate billing.

Can you help me find a pharmacy to use?

To view and search for in-network pharmacies go to the DCMWC Employees' Compensation Operations & Management Portal (ECOMP) at <http://blacklung-pharmacy.dol.gov/>. You can also call Optum toll-free at 1-855-924-4688 for assistance in finding an in-network pharmacy.

When can I start using my new pharmacy benefits card?

You can start using your new pharmacy benefits card on September 10, 2026.

What do I do if I lose the card?

If you need a replacement card, you can call Optum toll-free at 1-855-924-4688.

I was awarded Black Lung benefits by the Black Lung Program. I also filed a claim with the state where I worked as a coal miner and was awarded benefits for Black Lung. Am I still entitled to pharmacy coverage under the Federal Black Lung Program?

You are entitled to pharmacy coverage under the Federal Black Lung Program when expenses for the treatment of your Black Lung condition are not covered by your state program. Bills or reimbursement requests must first be submitted to the state program that awarded your benefits.

If your pharmacy submitted bills, or you submitted reimbursement requests for out-of-pocket medication expenses, but the state program denied payment for them, you or your provider can resubmit bills and/or the reimbursement request with original receipts along with a copy of the state program's denial letter to:

U.S. Department of Labor OWCP/DCMWC
P.O. BOX 8302
London, KY 40742-8302

If you have questions, please call the DCMWC District Office that handles your Federal Black Lung Program claim. You can reach the District Office by calling toll-free, on business days, 9 a.m.–4 p.m. (ET): 1-800-347-2502.

What medications are covered?

Most medications prescribed by your doctor for the treatment of your Black Lung condition will be covered. However, there are some exceptions. Your pharmacist will be able to learn in real time if a medication is covered if the bill is submitted electronically to Optum. To be sure a medication is covered, you, your physician, or your pharmacist may call Optum toll free at 1-855-924-4688.

Will the medications I am currently receiving from the Federal Black Lung Program continue to be covered?

Yes. Your current medications will continue to be covered under the Federal Black Lung Program. If this ever changes in the future, we will send you more information.

Does generic medication work the same way as the brand name products?

Generic medications are safe and effective; they contain the same active ingredients and work the same way as the brand name medication. The Federal Black Lung Program can pay for brand name medications if a generic drug is not available or if your doctor considers the brand name to be medically necessary. In cases where

your doctor would like you to prescribe the brand name medication when a generic is available, please have your doctor call Optum toll-free at 1-855-924-4688.

If I elect to have my medications sent directly to my home, how do I find out about the status of my pharmacy mail order?

The fastest way to learn the status of a mail order prescription is to contact your mail order pharmacy directly. If you need further assistance, Optum can coordinate this with your mail order pharmacy. Please call Optum toll-free at 1-855-924-4688.

What if I have questions about my medications?

If you have questions regarding your prescribed medications, please contact your treating physician.

What if I have no refills remaining but still need the medication?

If you do not have any refills remaining, and you need to continue the medication, please contact your treating physician as early as possible for a refill prescription. Your pharmacy may also be able to coordinate obtaining a refill prescription when needed.

Can I get medications early if I am traveling out of town?

Yes. Your treating physician can request early refills on medications because of any upcoming travel. Please call Optum toll-free at 1-855-924-4688.

Are over the counter (OTC) medications covered?

No. The Black Lung Program does not reimburse medications purchased over the counter.

What durable medical equipment (DME), diagnostic services, and testing services are available through Optum?

Optum offers a variety of DME and diagnostic and testing services related to your medical treatment as authorized within your Federal Black Lung benefits. Examples of these include:

- DME and supplies: oxygen and related respiratory equipment, oxygen concentrators, nebulizers, ventilators, wheelchairs, walkers, and hospital beds.
- Diagnostic and testing services: chest X-rays, CT scans, EMGs, pulmonary function testing, spirometry, pulse oximetry, and blood gas testing.