

Changes in Standard Form (SF) 2809 - Health Benefits Election Form

OPM has updated the Health Benefits Election Form, Standard Form (SF) 2809 to make it consistent with the Affordable Care Act (ACA), including updated eligibility information for children. Previous editions are not usable.

Since the use of hard copy SF 2809 forms is rare, this change should not have a significant impact. The electronic version of the form, which is available on the OPM website and the ABC-C website, have both been updated to the new version. Hard copy forms should only be used in the case of Temporary Continuation of Coverage (TCC) enrollment and occasionally submitted with retirement packets for changes at retirement. Otherwise, FEHB enrollment or changes should be done through the ABC-C automated phone line at 877-276-9287 or through EBIS at <https://www.abc.army.mil>. The automatically generated version of the form in EBIS should be updated shortly. The information below details the specific changes in the new SF 2809.

The new SF 2809 requests additional information for both enrollees and their eligible family members.

The additional information requested is:

- Medicare Claim Number for both the enrollee and dependents. Previously this number was not gathered.
- Email address for enrollee and dependents who do not live with the enrollee. Previously email addresses were not gathered.
- Preferred telephone number for enrollee and dependents who do not live with the enrollee. Previously only the daytime telephone number of the enrollee was gathered.

The new form has several additional changes:

- Other health insurance information is requested in a different way that we hope will reduce instances of an enrollee or family member receiving benefits under more than one FEHB enrollment.
- The new form is not multiple pages as the previous form was. After the form is completed, the employing office must generate 5 copies and distribute them according to the instructions on page 5 of the form.
- The paper SF 2809 is no longer available for purchase. The online edition of the revised form must be downloaded.

Please be aware of a new footnote #9 in the Table of Permissible Changes in FEHB Enrollment and Premium Conversion Election (Table 1). It clarifies that an employee may change to Self Only outside of Open Season only if the Qualifying Life Event (QLE) caused all eligible family members to acquire other health insurance coverage. Employees may cancel enrollment outside of Open Season only if the QLE caused the enrollee and all eligible family members to acquire other health insurance coverage.

For additional information you can contact Counselors at the Army Benefits Center-Civilian (ABC-C) by calling toll-free 1-877-276-9287 or TDD at 1-877-276-9833. Normal operating hours are 6:00 am to 6:00 pm CT, Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

Fort Sam Houston CPAC
Customer Service Section
(210)221-2526