The FLTCIP Celebrates Its 10th Anniversary

The year 2012 marks the 10-year anniversary of the Federal Long Term Care Insurance Program (FLTCIP) and an important milestone in the history of this Federal benefit, which is sponsored by the U.S. Office of Personnel Management.

Since its launch in 2002, the FLTCIP has offered Federal workers and annuitants the opportunity to take control of their future long term care needs. Designed to be both flexible and affordable for a range of budgets, the program has grown to be the largest of its kind in the nation, with nearly 270,000 enrollees.

Throughout its first decade, the FLTCIP has continued to be popular with Federal family members of all ages, especially those nearing retirement. When enrollees are asked why they value the FLTCIP, the following reasons typically top the list:

Flexibility: A choice of care settings and providers
The FLTCIP helps give enrollees confidence that if a long term care event occurs, their insurance will help pay for quality care in the setting of their choice, whether at home, in an assisted living facility, or a nursing home. Both formal care from licensed professionals and informal care provided by friends and family members are covered.

Coverage for informal care has been a hallmark of the program from the start. By paying friends and family members who serve as caregivers, the FLTCIP makes it possible for enrollees to remain at home and avoid or postpone entering a facility. The importance of what’s called “aging in place” (and receiving care from a familiar individual) is evident in the FLTCIP’s claim history. Informal, home-based care is—and has always been—the number one choice of enrollees receiving benefits.

Freedom: Helping to preserve independence
The program can be especially attractive to individuals who value their independence and who may worry about relying on a spouse or children should they need care. Having such coverage helps spouses maintain their current lifestyle and minimizes the financial and emotional sacrifices adult children are often asked to make when a long term care event occurs.

Protection: Helping to safeguard retirement savings and assets
Another key to the program’s success is its ability to help protect retirement income and savings from the high cost of care. Families who have experienced a long term care event know that services can be expensive, and that costs continue to escalate. For instance, three years of care at home with a health aide, in an assisted living facility, or in a nursing home can range from $72,000 to more than $227,000.

To date, the FLTCIP has delivered on its financial promises to more than 9,000 claimants, accepting an average of 125 new cases each month. The FLTCIP’s claim approval rate has also been excellent with an impressive 97–98% of all claims approved for payment. Additionally, more than 98% of these claims are paid within five days.

Valuable support: Information and advice about care services and options
Many enrollees are quick to cite FLTCIP’s care coordination services as a highlight of the program. A specially trained care coordinator—a registered nurse with experience in the
emotional, social, and financial issues surrounding long term care—is assigned to every enrollee. This expertise is available not only to FLTCIP enrollees, but also to their qualified relatives, even if they are not enrolled. The value of the coordinators’ services—information, advice, support, and care plan oversight—is illustrated by the many warm relationships they have developed with families over the years.

**Help us celebrate**
If you are not already enrolled, why not learn more about this important Federal benefit during our special anniversary? Because premiums are based on your age at the time of application, this is a good time to learn more. Once enrolled, you can take comfort in knowing you will have care for those “what-if?” situations as well as access to expert care coordination for yourself—and your qualified relatives.

To learn more about the FLTCIP, visit www.LTCFEDS.com or call **1-800-LTC-FEDS** (1-800-582-3337) TTY 1-800-843-3557. Program consultants are available to talk to you and provide as much assistance as you need.

**More about the FLTCIP**
Established by an act of Congress in 2000 and overseen by the U.S. Office of Personnel Management, the FLTCIP is designed to meet the specific needs of the Federal family. The FLTCIP provides industry-leading benefits and offers flexible options that allow enrollees to tailor coverage to meet their needs.

1When informal care is provided by family, services are reimbursed up to 500 days in an enrollee’s lifetime.
2John Hancock 2011 National Long-Term Care Cost Study.

Certain medical conditions, or combinations of conditions, will prevent some people from being approved for coverage. You need to apply to find out if you qualify for coverage under the FLTCIP.

The Federal Long Term Care Insurance Program is sponsored by the U.S. Office of Personnel Management, offered by John Hancock Life & Health Insurance Company, and administered by Long Term Care Partners, LLC.

FLTCIP009367