

# The FEDERAL EDGE

## Question of the Week:

What do I need to know about Federal Dental and Vision Benefits?

## Answer:

If you have worked in the financial or estate planning business for any time at all then you know that people care a lot about their insurance and want to be assured that they have coverage and that they will retain coverage...

... Read more below

## Topic of the Week:

## Federal Dental and Vision Insurance



### What you should know about FEDVIP

#### Dental--Vision--FEHB

One of the most important things for you to know about the Federal Employees Dental and Vision Insurance Program is how it relates to FEHB. The quick answer is it doesn't. It's true that a few of the FEHB plans do have some dental or vision coverage, but the individual dental or vision plans that are available to federal employees have no connection to their FEHB benefits. This means that your clients can choose to enroll in FEHB only, FEDVIP only, both, or neither. They don't need to have FEHB to have FEDVIP. Similarly, they can choose different enrollment types for both as well. For example, they may choose to enroll in family coverage for FEHB and then self-only for FEDVIP, or vice-versa. And even within the FEDVIP itself they can choose to enroll in dental coverage only, vision coverage only, or take both. There's

quite a bit of flexibility available for them.

#### Eligibility

**Employees-** the only requirement for eligibility for FEDVIP is that they must be eligible to have FEHB. They don't have to have it, but they must be eligible for it.

**Retirees-** those who retire with an immediate annuity are eligible. Those who retire with a deferred annuity are not eligible at retirement or ever again, even when their annuity starts! Those who are enrolled in FEDVIP and retire as FERS with an MRA+10 annuity and choose to postpone receipt of their annuity lose their FEDVIP coverage, however, they can enroll again in FEDVIP, either with the same coverage or different coverage, once their annuity starts, but not until then. So a deferred annuity is the only retirement path that

blocks retirees from receiving FEDVIP coverage.

\* An important note about eligibility for retirees: Unlike other federal insurance types there is no 5 year rule that an employee must have FEDVIP coverage for the last 5 years of employment to receive coverage in retirement. In fact, they may enroll during the annual open enrollment season (mid-November thru mid-December) in their last year of employment and still carry their insurance into retirement.

**Survivors-** they need only be members of a family who receives an immediate annuity to be eligible for coverage. And survivors can enroll even if they were not previously covered under the deceased person's coverage. After the death of the employee or retiree, the survivor has the option to choose his/her own coverage options.