



A GUIDE FOR HEALTH BENEFITS AFTER SERVICE



PEACE CORPS POST-SERVICE UNIT

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The Peace Corps **Post-Service Unit** is part of the Office of Health Services at Peace Corps headquarters in Washington, D.C. We administer the **three post-service health care benefits** available to returned Peace Corps Volunteers.

There are three post-service health care benefits available to returned Peace Corps Volunteers (RPCVs):

I am traveling after service and haven't elected U.S. health insurance yet. What if I get hurt?

1



How can Post-Service Unit (PSU) help you?

- Guide you through the post-service health care process
- Assist you in using your 127Cs to receive consultation/diagnostic testing of medical conditions from service, then help you file your Federal Employees' Compensation Act (FECA) claim with the Department of Labor (DOL)
- Provide you with additional 127Cs if more diagnostic testing is needed
- Act as a liaison between you and DOL once your FECA claim has been filed

Short-term Health Insurance For Transition & Travel (SHIFTT)

What is SHIFTT?

SHIFTT is transitional health insurance for RPCVs that covers health conditions developed **after** service.

Who can enroll?

All Peace Corps and Peace Corps response volunteers are automatically enrolled for the first two months after service. Spouses and dependents of Volunteers can enroll for additional cost.

How much does it cost?

The first two months of SHIFTT coverage is paid for by Peace Corps. You may enroll for an additional month, totaling three months of coverage, which can be deducted from your readjustment allowance. To extend coverage, you must enroll before SHIFTT coverage expires.

What does SHIFTT cover?

SHIFTT covers you internationally and in the U.S. For information regarding coverage, cost, and to access the First Health Provider Network, visit peacecorps.imglobal.com.

PEACE CORPS-AUTHORIZED HEALTH BENEFITS CARD

* For payment, member must present a valid PC-127C or PC-209B authorization with this card.

Member: _____
ID#: PEAC _____
Date Issued: _____

*Your ID # will be the numeric value of your Peace Corps ID

Administered By: IMG
peacecorps.imglobal.com



PC-127C I.D. Card

Returned Peace Corps Volunteers (RPCV)

 

Member: _____
ID#: PEAC4 _____
Date Issued: _____

*Your ID # will be the numeric value of your Peace Corps ID

 **First Health Network**
Administered By: IMG
peacecorps.imglobal.com

SHIFTT I.D. Card

IMPORTANT: SHIFTT is designed to be transitional health insurance after service. It is your responsibility to elect a health insurance plan, generally within 60 days of your return to the U.S., to comply with the Affordable Care Act. For more information, visit healthcare.gov.

I have a medical condition from my Peace Corps service and need diagnosis and/or a treatment plan in the U.S. What are my next steps when I return to the U.S.?

2



PC-127C Form for Medical and Dental Authorization

What is the 127C?

Regardless of your health insurance status, this form authorizes you to receive physician consultation/diagnostic testing in the U.S. at the Peace Corps' expense for health conditions not resolved during service.

How do I get a 127C?

You will receive a 127C from your Peace Corps Medical Officer at COS or from the PSU after you return to the U.S.

How do I use the 127C?

Follow these three steps:

- 1.** Choose a health care provider to visit for the condition listed on your 127C.
- 2.** Present the 127C and your Health Benefits Program ID card (pictured left) to the medical care provider as payment for your visit. Explain that you have an "authorization for evaluation" and direct them to billing instructions on the 127C.
- 3.** If further evaluation/diagnostic testing is needed, additional 127Cs may be provided by PSU.

The 127C **does not authorize treatment.**

You may choose to file a FECA claim (benefit 3, right) for treatment.

IMPORTANT: 127Cs can only be used within six months of your close of service/early termination (ET).

How do I receive further medical treatment after service or treatment for conditions diagnosed using a 127C?

3



Federal Employees' Compensation Act (FECA)

What is FECA?

FECA is the law that provides compensation for individuals who are injured or develop conditions while on duty with the federal government. This includes Peace Corps Volunteers. FECA is administered by the DOL Office of Workers' Compensation Programs. FECA is not a Peace Corps program.

When should I file a FECA claim?

If it is determined by your health care provider (that you saw independently or by using a 127C) that you need treatment, it is your right to file a FECA claim to seek compensation for medical expenses. Claims must be filed within three years of your COS/ET or within three years of recognition that the condition is service-related.

How do I file a claim?

Contact PSU to guide you through the process. You will need to complete a claim form and request your doctor's visit notes to submit with your claim.

What happens after I file a claim?

The typical wait period for decision on a claim is four to 10 weeks. Your PSU nurse will be in contact with your DOL claims examiner. **Claim decisions are made by DOL, not the Peace Corps.**

For more detailed information, visit: dol.gov/owcp/dfec/fec-faq.htm.



PEACECORPS.GOV

FAQs

- I used a 127C Form/ SHIFTT and my provider is billing me. Who can I contact?** > For 127C billing issues, contact psu@peacecorps.gov. For RPCV Short-term Health Insurance for Transition & Travel (SHIFTT) billing issues, contact International Medical Group Inc. (IMG) at **855.731.9442**.
- Why can't the Peace Corps continue providing my treatment when I return to the U.S.?** > The Peace Corps is a federal agency created and governed by a congressional act, the Peace Corps Act. Under this act, the Peace Corps does not have the legal authority to pay for or provide health care for returned Volunteers. If you are seeking treatment, see the FECA section inside this brochure.
- Do I need to use a 127C to use SHIFTT?** > No. The 127C authorizes an evaluation of conditions that resulted from Peace Corps service. RPCV Short-term Health Insurance for Transition & Travel is temporary health insurance used for health conditions that occur after service, and both have unique ID cards.
- What qualifies as diagnostic testing/ evaluation under the 127C?** > Imaging studies (X-ray, MRI, ultrasound), lab tests, therapy sessions, and physician consultation. If you or your provider have questions about coverage, please contact psu@peacecorps.gov.
- I want to file a FECA claim but I have an urgent medical condition and cannot wait four to 10 weeks. Can I receive treatment, then file for reimbursement?** > Yes. You can file after you receive treatment but as with all claims, acceptance is not guaranteed and you may not be reimbursed for the cost of your care. Claim decisions are made by the Department of Labor, not the Peace Corps. For more detailed information, visit dol.gov/owcp/dfec/fec-faq.htm.



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