

Gilsbar Flex Debit Card

Beginning January 1, 2008, new IRS rules have simplified the use of Flex Debit Cards. These rules now require drug stores and supermarkets to identify FSA-eligible items at checkout and require the drug store or super market to only use the card for FSA eligible items. This means that you can use your Card at participating stores that offer this feature for the total FSA-eligible amount and NO receipts are needed to verify the eligibility of the purchase! And of course, you can continue to use your Card at pharmacies and other health care providers.

Please visit <http://www.sig-is.org/en/index.asp> and click on **SIGIS Merchant List** for the latest list of participating merchants.

Here's an example:

You have been purchasing prescriptions at a pharmacy in a local supermarket using your Card during 2007. On January 5, 2008, you go to the store to pick up a prescription. If the store has not made the change required by the IRS to identify FSA-eligible items, your Card may be declined at the point of purchase. In this case, you can transfer your prescriptions to a pharmacy in a participating discount store or supermarket, or to a freestanding pharmacy, or simply continue to turn in your paper receipts for reimbursement as you have previously.

Important point to remember:

If you use your Card on or after January 1, 2008 in a discount store or supermarket that is not participating — even if you purchased FSA-eligible items in the store prior to January 1, 2008, your Card may decline.

Here's how your Flex Card works at participating stores:

1. Bring prescriptions and vision products, OTCs and other purchases to the register at checkout to let the clerk ring them up.
2. Present your Card and swipe it for payment.
3. If the Card swipe transaction is approved (e.g., there are sufficient funds in the account and at least some of the purchases are FSA eligible), the amount of the FSA-eligible purchases is deducted from the account balance and no receipt follow up is required. The clerk will then ask for another form of payment for the non-FSA-eligible items.
4. If the Card swipe transaction is declined, the clerk will ask for another form of payment for the total amount of the purchase.
5. The receipt will identify the FSA-eligible items and may also show a subtotal of the FSA-eligible purchases.

How does the FSA Debit Card work?

Shortly after the start of the plan year you will receive your FSA Debit Card to use for your eligible medical expenses. If you are a current participant, your card will reflect the new plan year contribution amount on the new effective date of the plan. As you incur expenses, use your FSA Debit Card to have the funds taken directly out of your account so you don't have to pay with cash out of your pocket.

Where can I use my FSA Debit Card?

Your FSA Debit Card will only be accepted at authorized vendors that have the appropriate merchant codes, such as medical clinics, hospitals, dental offices, vision care centers and pharmacies.

If I use my FSA Debit Card, is verification of claims still required?

Per IRS requirements, verification of claims is required for all debit card transactions. A large portion of debit card transaction can be verified using one of the IRS' approved electronic methods; however, not all transactions can be verified electronically. For any expense that cannot be verified electronically, you must provide supporting documentation upon request in the form of an itemized bill or receipt to Gilsbar. Verification should include the patient name, date of service, description of services rendered, cost and patient liability. If Gilsbar does not receive verification within 30 days of the date requested you will be asked to return the un-verified amounts to your employer, or they may be counted as taxable income to you.

Are there special rules that related to prescriptions, over-the-counter (OTC) products, and vision expenses incurred at retail merchants?

Starting on January 1, 2008, new special IRS rules allow you to use your FSA debit card in participating discount stores and supermarkets that can identify FSA-eligible items at checkout. This means that you can use your card at participating stores for the total FSA-eligible amount and NO receipts are needed to verify the eligibility of the purchase! Important point to remember: If you use your card on or after January 1, 2008 in a discount store or supermarket that is not participating in the IRA program, even if you purchased FSA-eligible items there before, your card may decline.

Can I use my FSA Debit Card for eligible Dependent Care expenses?

No. Your FSA Debit Card may not be used to pay for eligible Dependent Care expenses. Your card will only be accepted at authorized vendors that have the appropriate merchant codes, such as medical clinics, hospitals, dental offices, vision care centers and pharmacies.

What happens if the FSA Debit Card is used for an ineligible expense?

Gilsbar will review all charges and determine if the card was used for an ineligible expense, according to IRS guidelines. If it was, we will notify you for repayment of the invalid amount. Failure to repay within 30 days of the request can result in the loss of your debit card privileges.

What should I do to pay for an expense that is more than my account balance?

You should tell the merchant to swipe your card for the amount equal to what is left in your account, then use another payment method to pay the remaining balance.