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If you need these services, contact the Civil Rights Coordinator of your Local Plan by contacting your Local Plan at the phone number appearing on the back of your ID card.

If you believe that we have failed to provide these services or discriminated in another way on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, or sex, you can file a grievance with the Civil Rights Coordinator of your Local Plan. You can file a grievance in person or by mail, fax, or email. If you need help filing a grievance, your Local Plan's Civil Rights Coordinator is available to help you.

Members may file a complaint with the HHS Office of Civil Rights, OPM, or FEHB Program Carriers.

You can also file a civil rights complaint with the Office of Personnel Management by mail at:

Office of Personnel Management
Healthcare and Insurance
Federal Employee Insurance Operations
Attention: Assistant Director, FEIO
1900 E Street NW, Suite 3400-S
Washington, DC 20415-3610

For further information about how to file a civil rights complaint, go to www.fepblue.org/en/rights-and-responsibilities/, or call the customer service phone number on the back of your member ID card. For TTY, dial 711.

Preventing Medical Mistakes

Medical mistakes continue to be a significant cause of preventable deaths within the United States. While death is the most tragic outcome, medical mistakes cause other problems such as permanent disabilities, extended hospital stays, longer recoveries, and additional treatments. Medical mistakes and their consequences also add significantly to the overall cost of healthcare. Hospitals and healthcare providers are being held accountable for the quality of care and reduction in medical mistakes by their accrediting bodies. You can also improve the quality and safety of your own healthcare and that of your family members by learning more about and understanding your risks. Take these simple steps:

1. Ask questions if you have doubts or concerns.

- Ask questions and make sure you understand the answers.

- Choose a doctor with whom you feel comfortable talking.
- Take a relative or friend with you to help you take notes, ask questions and understand answers.

2. Keep and bring a list of all the medications you take.

- Bring the actual medications or give your doctor and pharmacist a list of all the medications and dosages that you take, including non-prescription (over-the-counter) medications and nutritional supplements.
- Tell your doctor and pharmacist about any drug, food, and other allergies you have, such as to latex.
- Ask about any risks or side effects of the medication and what to avoid while taking it. Be sure to write down what your doctor or pharmacist says.
- Make sure your medication is what the doctor ordered. Ask the pharmacist about your medication if it looks different than you expected.
- Read the label and patient package insert when you get your medication, including all warnings and instructions.
- Know how to use your medication. Especially note the times and conditions when your medication should and should not be taken.
- Contact your doctor or pharmacist if you have any questions.
- Understand both the generic and brand names of your medication. This helps ensure you do not receive double dosing from taking both a generic and a brand. It also helps prevent you from taking a medication to which you are allergic.

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