

To: purchmerge@mail.pitt.edu

Date: Friday, March 30, 2018

OptiFreight Update:

Starting April 1, 2018, the University will be adding 103 additional suppliers to the OptiFreight inbound freight program bringing the total number of participating suppliers to 541.ⁱ

Inbound freight programs are common in many industries, including health care. These programs are now becoming more commonplace in higher education as well. In 2013, after an exhaustive review of the providers in the marketplace, UPMC decided to implement OptiFreight as its inbound freight provider. The University was able to build on the UPMC contract with OptiFreight which allows the University to enjoy the same 45% freight savings on the list price of shipping as UPMC.ⁱⁱ The University, as a whole, saved more than \$250,000 over the last year as a result of the OptiFreight inbound freight program. This success has spurred us to add 103 new suppliers to the program.

In addition to the discounted freight costs, OptiFreight also manages inbound suppliers by efficiently facilitating the shipping process and providing an account manager and access to OptiFreight's customer care team to answer questions.

How OptiFreight Works

When placing an order with a "participating supplier" (i.e. a supplier that is participating in the OptiFreight program), the supplier will fill the order and the carrier will ship the order on the University's third party account with OptiFreight.

Participating suppliers must meet cost and quality control criteria and new suppliers are only added if they meet inbound freight cost savings criteria and maintain high levels of service for optimal University benefit.

Understanding Your Invoice

When you place orders through a participating supplier, the participating supplier will invoice the University for the cost of the goods purchased. The invoice may, in certain situations, also contain any applicable accessorial charges including fees for special handling or packing materials such as dry ice. The freight charge, however, will not appear on the participating supplier invoice.

The freight charges will be billed separately and will appear on your level report as "Cardinal Health" with corresponding PO numbers.ⁱⁱⁱ

Updates and Information

Please visit the [OptiFreight information page](#) for updates and further information about the program. This page includes the [current list](#) of participating suppliers, highlights of the program, and information about how OptiFreight inbound freight charges will appear on your level report.

If you have questions, please contact PantherExpress Customer Service by submitting an online inquiry or by calling 412- 624-3578.

Thank you,
University of Pittsburgh – PantherExpress

ⁱ Regional campuses (Bradford, Greensburg, Johnstown, and Titusville) are not configured to participate in this program at this time.

ⁱⁱ Savings will vary by supplier; the contract with OptiFreight will not affect outbound freight contracts.

ⁱⁱⁱ Cardinal Health provides the OptiFreight service but it is not a University-wide contracted supplier for scientific, medical, or other supplies.