IRS-Qualified Medical Expenses

You can use your Health Savings Account (HSA) or Flexible Spending Account (FSA) to pay for a wide range of IRS-qualified medical expenses for yourself, your spouse, or tax dependents. Generally, an IRS-qualified medical expense is defined as an expense that pays for healthcare services, equipment, or medications as defined under Section 213(d) of the Internal Revenue Code. Funds used to pay for IRS-qualified medical expenses are always tax-free.

Please note, if your health account is a Health Reimbursement Arrangement (HRA), qualified medical expenses will be defined by your plan design. Please check with your employer.

Examples of IRS-Qualified Medical Expenses:

- Acupuncture
- Alcoholism treatment
- Ambulance services
- Annual physical examination
- Artificial limb or prosthesis
- Birth control pills (by prescription)
- Chiropractor
- Childbirth/delivery
- Convalescent home
- (for medical treatment only)
- Crutches
- Doctor’s fees
- Dental treatments
  - (including x-rays, braces, dentures, fillings, oral surgery)
- Dermatologist
- Diagnostic services
- Disabled dependent care
- Drug addiction therapy
- Fertility enhancement
  - (including in-vitro fertilization)
- Guide dog
  - (or other service animal)
- Gynecologist
- Hearing aids and batteries
- Hospital bills
- Insurance premiums**
- Laboratory fees
- Lactation expenses
- Lodging
  - (away from home for outpatient care)
- Nursing home
- Nursing services
- Obstetrician
- Osteopath
- Oxygen
- Pregnancy test kit
- Podiatrist
- Prescription drugs and medicines
  - (over-the-counter drugs are not IRS-qualified medical expenses unless prescribed by a doctor)
- Prenatal care & postnatal treatments
- Psychologist
- Smoking cessation programs
- Special education tutoring
- Surgery
- Telephone or TV equipment to assist the hearing or vision impaired
- Therapy or counseling
- Medical transportation expenses
- Transplants
- Vaccines
- Vasectomy
- Vision care
  - (including eyeglasses, contact lenses, lasik surgery)
- Weight loss programs
  - (for a specific disease diagnosed by a physician – such as obesity, hypertension, or heart disease)
- Wheelchairs
- X-rays

* This list is not comprehensive. It is provided to you with the understanding that HSA Bank is not engaged in rendering tax advice. The information provided is not intended to be used to avoid federal tax penalties. For more detailed information, please refer to IRS Publication 502 titled, “Medical and Dental Expenses,” Catalog Number 15002Q. Publications can be ordered directly from the IRS by calling 1-800-TAXFORM. If tax advice is required, you should seek the services of a professional.

** Insurance premiums may not be reimbursed from an FSA. Except for certain retiree plans, HRAs may not generally reimburse premiums for individual policies of health insurance other than vision and dental insurance. Insurance premiums only qualify as an IRS-qualified medical expense for HSAs under the following circumstances: while continuing coverage under COBRA; for qualified long-term care coverage; coverage while receiving unemployment compensation; for any healthcare coverage for those over age 65 including Medicare (except Medicare supplemental coverage).