

Optima Equity/OptimaFIT HSA Plans offered with a Health Savings Account (HSA)

Member Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is a health savings account?

A health savings account (HSA) is a savings and spending account that offers members a tax-advantaged way to pay for qualified medical expenses. You can also save for future medical and retirement healthcare expenses. In order to open an HSA, you must be enrolled in a qualified high-deductible health plan (HDHP).

2. What is a high-deductible health plan?

The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) defines HDHPs as plans with a deductible of at least \$1,350 for an individual, or \$2,700 for a family. HDHPs tend to have higher deductibles than traditional health plans, which often results in a lower monthly premium. Your HDHP can be combined with an HSA allowing you to pay your qualified medical expenses, tax free. Optima Health HSA-compatible plans include “Optima Equity” and “OptimaFit HSA.”

3. Who is eligible to open an HSA?

Anyone who is enrolled in a qualified HDHP, is not covered by other health insurance, not enrolled in Medicare, and cannot be claimed as a dependent on someone else’s tax return.

4. Who can contribute to an HSA?

The member, their employer, or a third party can fund HSAs with tax-free dollars.

5. How much can be contributed each year?

For 2019, HSA holders can contribute up to \$3,500 for individual coverage, or \$7,000 for family coverage. HSA holders age 55 or older may also make an additional contribution of \$1,000 per year (for a total of \$4,500 for individual coverage or \$8,000 for family coverage).

For 2018, contribution limits are \$3,450 for individual, or \$6,900 for family coverage. HSA holders age 55 or older may also make an additional contribution of \$1,000 per year (totaling \$4,450 for individual, or \$7,900 for family). These maximums are established by the IRS and are subject to change every year.

6. Who owns the HSA?

The member owns the account regardless of who contributes. The funds remain in the account and earn tax-free interest and returns over time.

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7. What can I pay for with my HSA funds?

An HSA can be used to pay for any qualified medical expense as defined by the IRS. Qualified medical expenses include, but are not limited to: copayments, deductibles, coinsurance, vision care, and dental care. For a list of qualified medical expenses, please refer to IRS Publication 502 at www.irs.gov.

8. What are the benefits of using Optima Equity/OptimaFIT HSA, the integrated HSAs that Optima Health offers?

After choosing the Optima Equity or OptimaFIT HSA benefit plan, the HSA account will be set up automatically during the same enrollment process when the member elects to open an account. Our HSA Partner, HealthEquity®, administers the financial portion of the account.

The integrated Optima Equity/OptimaFIT HSA solution offers members a simpler experience. By signing in at optimahealth.com, then selecting “Health Savings Account,” members have access to the following features all on one platform—the HealthEquity member portal:

- View medical claims.
- Pay providers.
- Store claims information to validate expenses.
- View account balances.

9. What are the benefits of opening an HSA?

HSAs and qualified high-deductible health plans offer an option to save for retirement and pay for medical expenses. In order to determine if an HSA is right for you, compare your various benefit options and evaluate them based on your financial and health situation.

10. How can I use my HSA through Optima Equity/OptimaFIT HSA to pay for eligible services?

Account holders can make payments by debit card, online electronic funds transfer (EFT), or by phone.

The HealthEquity PayChoice® platform enables members to manage their account information, see account balances, request reimbursements, or make payments from the account directly to providers.

Paper reimbursement checks to the member are also available for an additional fee. All records are maintained electronically in the HealthEquity member portal for record keeping, tax purposes, or for future payment decisions.

Experienced HealthEquity Member Service representatives are available 24/7 at 866-346-5800 to answer questions about your HSA or to assist you with phone transactions.

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11. What happens to HSA funds if the member changes jobs or retires?

The account belongs to the member account holder. You can keep your HSA even if you change or lose your job, change your medical coverage, or move to another location. You own the account.

12. Can HSA funds be withdrawn at any time?

Yes, as long as they are used to pay for qualified medical expenses, the money is not taxed. If the funds are used before age 65 for non-qualified expenses, the amount spent will be taxed and incur a 20% penalty. Once the member reaches age 65 the funds can be used for non-qualified expenses, but withdrawals will be subject to tax.

13. Can a retiree contribute to an HSA?

Yes, if they are covered by a qualified high-deductible health plan and not enrolled in Medicare, another health insurance plan, or are claimed as a dependent on someone else's tax return.

14. Do members lose HSA funds at the end of the year?

No, the remaining funds roll over into the following year and grow tax-free.

15. Does an HSA earn interest?

Yes, and the interest accumulates tax-free.

16. Can HSA funds be invested?

Yes, once a \$2,000 account balance is achieved, the first dollar above this amount can be invested. The money deposited into your HSA can earn interest or get investment returns—your choice. Your money is never taxed if you use it for qualified medical expenses, regardless of your age.

17. Do I have to pay any additional out-of-pocket costs for wellness and preventive benefits*?

No, wellness or preventive benefits are paid by Optima Health and are not subject to the HDHP deductible. Most preventive services are covered at 100% of the contracted provider rate.

*As defined under the Affordable Care Act (ACA).

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18. What happens after I open an HSA with my Optima Equity/OptimaFIT HSA plan?

The member account holder will receive the following items from HealthEquity:

- An HSA Member Welcome Letter, which lists all of the features of the HSA, including the HealthEquity Member Services contact information.
- A Member Guide providing the account holder with information on how to navigate their HealthEquity member portal and manage their HSA.
- A Visa® debit card with activation sticker and card carrier.
- The PIN mailer, sent separately, which contains their debit card Personal Identification Number.
- Custodial account agreement for their records.
- HSA interest rate schedule.

19. How do I access my HSA account?

Sign in to your secure member account at optimahealth.com. Select “Health Savings Account” from your menu options to navigate to your HealthEquity member portal.

If you are registering at optimahealth.com for the first time, you will need your member number from your Optima Health member ID card to create a username and password.

20. Where can I get information on investment funds?

You can access investment fund information from your HealthEquity member portal accessed through your secure member account on optimahealth.com.

Optima Health is the tradename of Optima Health Plan, Optima Health Insurance Company, and Sentara Health Plans, Inc. Optima Equity Plus HSA qualified high-deductible PPO health plans are underwritten by Optima Health Insurance Company. Optima Equity Vantage HSA qualified high-deductible HMO health plans are underwritten by Optima Health Plan. Self-funded qualified high-deductible health plans are administered but not underwritten by Sentara Health Plans, Inc. All health plans have benefit exclusions and limitations and conditions of coverage. For costs and complete details about coverage, ask your broker or employer. The information provided in this document is not tax or legal advice. The tax treatments vary for each situation. Please consult your tax or legal counsel for tax implication of your unique situation.