



Five ways to maximize the value of your HSA



One of the biggest advantages to participating in the BP Health+Savings plan (aside from significantly lower premiums) is access to a Health Savings Account (HSA). Most of us understand that an HSA is an account we own that can be used for current and future medical expenses. But that's just part of the story.

Here are some other benefits of your HSA:

1. Earn \$1,000 from BP

To be eligible for a \$1,000 BP contribution, you must complete the Physician Certification Form process. Visit BP [LifeBenefits](#) to learn more. Spouses/partners can also be eligible for the \$1,000 contribution.

2. Save money on taxes now

Your HSA offers triple tax savings: Contributions are made pre-tax; interest earned on the account grows tax free; and if you use your HSA to pay for qualified medical expenses (such as doctor and dentist appointments, prescription drugs, lab fees and hospital services) then your withdrawals are tax-free too.

3. Put money aside for future medical expenses

Employees who don't have current medical expenses often decide to build a savings cushion in their HSA for future medical expenses using the money they saved on premiums. For instance, a single employee saves over \$1,000 a year, while a family saves over \$3,000 compared to the HealthPlus option. You can put those savings into your HSA for additional savings with tax-free contributions. And since there's no "use it or lose



it" rule, any balance in your account at the end of the year rolls over to the next year. Plus, if you were to leave BP, your HSA is 100% portable, so it's always yours to keep.

4. Invest your HSA funds

If you have a balance over \$1,000 in your HSA, Payflex permits you to invest those excess funds. Update your HSA contributions via the Aetna Medical Plan link on BP [LifeBenefits](#) where you can also access your Payflex investment choices.

5. Build a retirement nest egg

A recent study found that the average 65-year old couple retiring in 2017 would need around **\$275,000 to cover medical expenses in retirement**. With health care costs on the rise, the HSA can be an effective way to save for future healthcare expenses – like those in retirement. If you can afford to pay for current medical expenses out of your income and savings, think about allowing the HSA funds to grow. You'll still get the immediate tax benefit, but in addition, you have the opportunity for long-term tax-free growth. What's more, once you reach age 65 you can use your HSA to pay for non-qualified expenses such as employer-sponsored health coverage or Medicare.

Have more HSA questions?

Call the PwC CounselLine for BP employees at **866-237-6165** Monday through Friday 8am to 7pm CT. You'll get free, confidential guidance from a PwC financial planner who isn't selling you anything.

Complete the online financial wellness class, 'Using Your Health Savings Account Effectively,' on PwC Envision™. Visit BP **LifeBenefits**, then Quick Links, PwC – Financial Wellness. If it's your first time on PwC Envision™, you'll be asked to complete a quick survey to customize the site for you. Then go to Menu > Vetted Tools to see the full list of points-eligible Financial Wellness Classes.



If you have specific questions about your account, log on to PayFlex via Aetna.com, or call **866-436-2606**.