



Healthcare spending account

A convenient way to pay for additional medical expenses

What do sports injuries, allergies and diabetes have in common? If you need treatment for any of them, you might have to pay for treatment out-of-pocket even if you have a group benefits plan. That's why a healthcare spending account (HCSA) may help.

What's an HCSA?

You start each plan year with a certain number of credits in your account. Throughout the year, you can use the credits to pay for or top up certain coverages. These can apply to health, vision and dental care expenses that aren't covered by your group benefits plan or provincial health care plan. Some examples include hearing aids, eyeglasses or topping up coverage for your child's braces.

You can use an HCSA to cover costs that qualify for a medical expense tax credit under the Income Tax Act.*

*Contact your local Canada Revenue Agency office for a complete list of qualifying expenses. In Quebec, your HSCA benefit payments are taxable for provincial income tax purposes.

Who can use your HCSA?

Your HCSA covers you, your spouse and your dependants if:

- You're already covered by the Canada Life™ basic group benefits plan
- Your spouse and dependants are already covered for basic health care benefits by your group plan or your spouse's plan

If your dependant child isn't eligible for basic health care benefits because of student age restrictions, they can still qualify for the HCSA.

Submitting claims

Use the HCSA forms to claim benefits from your HCSA. You should also use the forms when you're claiming benefits from your basic plan and want any remaining balance paid by the HCSA. You can find them on canadalife.com or get them from your plan administrator.

You have up to 31 days after your plan year ends to submit claims for your expenses from the last plan year. Your qualifying expenses come out of the remaining HCSA balance for that plan year.

Exclusions

There are some exclusions to HCSA coverage including:

- Expenses that private insurers aren't legally able to cover
- Services and supplies for which there's no charge
- Any portion of an expense for services and supplies for which benefits are payable under another group plan or a government plan
- Expenses arising from war, insurrection, acts of terrorism or voluntary participation in a riot

For more information on the healthcare spending account, contact your plan administrator.

