

# New OTC Expenses Now Eligible For Your FSA Funds

When you participate in a Flexible Spending Account (FSA), you're able to contribute pre-tax funds for use on hundreds of eligible expenses. Recently, you gained even more flexibility in your ability to save when the CARES Act was signed into law.

This new legislation expanded the list of expenses that are considered eligible by **including popular over-the-counter products**, which consumers can now purchase with their FSA without a prescription. This change went into effect on January 1, 2020, and allows over 20,000 new expenses as eligible moving forward. That's great news for consumers, since the average American shops for over-the-counter medications 26 times each year.

**Here are five of the most common expenses that are now eligible to use FSA funds without a prescription.**

## Pain relief medications

Headaches. Muscle soreness. Sprains. There are so many reasons to need pain relievers. There are two common types of over-the-counter pain medications: acetaminophen and nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs), both of which are now among the eligible expenses available from an FSA.

## Cold and flu products

Winter may be behind us, but cold and flu season never really goes away. As much as 20 percent of the U.S. population gets the flu, on average each season. Fortunately, the over-the-counter medicines taken to cope with a severe cough or congestion are now eligible expenses.

## Allergy products

Thirty percent of American adults and 40 percent of children suffer from allergies. And the cost of allergies to the healthcare system is estimated at \$18 billion. Those who do have allergies can now find relief with their HSA and FSA funds in the form of over-the-counter antihistamines and decongestants.

## Heartburn medications

Heartburn is among the more common afflictions in this country. That's why Americans spend billions of dollars each year on medicines that treat heartburn. The CARES Act means that these over-the-counter drugs are FSA eligible without a prescription.

## Menstrual products

The CARES Act also included menstrual care products as eligible expenses for FSAs. Eligible products include tampons, pads and menstrual sponges.

## **How do I know what qualifies?**

- Consumers can simply scan a product bar code right in their mobile app to help determine eligibility as a qualified medical expense. That's peace of mind with a touch of a button.
- Online shopping for eligible expenses can be done on sites like FSA Store. This site is dedicated to items that are eligible under pre-tax accounts like FSAs.

**How it Works:** Use the Debit Card: Once retailers have updated their payment systems and inventories consumers can simply use their card to pay for these newly eligible items, but they should still remember to save their receipts in case the purchase needs to be verified later. Submit a Claim: Consumers can submit claims for reimbursement through their online account or using the mobile app.



# Health Care FSA Eligible Expenses

<p><b>BABY/CHILD TO AGE 13</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Lactation Consultant*</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Lead-Based Paint Removal</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Special Formula*</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Tuition: Special School/Teacher for Disability or Learning Disability*</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Well Baby /Well Child Care</li> </ul> <p><b>DENTAL</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Dental X-Rays</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Dentures and Bridges</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Exams and Teeth Cleaning</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Extractions and Fillings</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Oral Surgery</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Orthodontia (reimbursable after payment)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Periodontal Services</li> </ul> <p><b>EYES</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Eye Exams</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Eyeglasses and Contact Lenses</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Laser Eye Surgeries</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Prescription Sunglasses</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Radial Keratotomy</li> </ul> <p><b>HEARING</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Hearing Aids and Batteries</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Hearing Exams</li> </ul> <p><b>LAB EXAMS/TESTS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Blood Tests and Metabolism Tests</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Body Scans</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Cardiograms</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Laboratory Fees</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> X-Rays</li> </ul>	<p><b>MEDICAL EQUIPMENT/SUPPLIES</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Air Purification Equipment*</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Arches and Orthotic Inserts</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Contraceptive Devices</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Crutches, Walkers, Wheel Chairs</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Exercise Equipment*</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Hospital Beds*</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Mattresses*</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Medic Alert Bracelet or Necklace</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Nebulizers</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Orthopedic Shoes*</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Oxygen*</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Post-Mastectomy Clothing</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Prosthetics</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Syringes</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Wigs*</li> </ul> <p><b>MEDICAL PROCEDURES/SERVICES</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Acupuncture</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Alcohol and Drug/Substance Abuse (inpatient treatment and outpatient care)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Ambulance</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Fertility Enhancement and Treatment</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Hair Loss Treatment*</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Hospital Services</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Immunization</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> In Vitro Fertilization</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Physical Examination (not employment-related)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Reconstructive Surgery (due to a congenital defect, accident, or medical treatment)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Service Animals</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Sterilization/Sterilization Reversal</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Transplants (including organ donor)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Transportation to Medical Facility</li> </ul>	<p><b>MEDICATIONS/DRUGS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Insulin</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Prescription Drugs</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> **Over the Counter Drugs/Medicines (such as Tylenol, Advil, NyQuil, etc.)</li> </ul> <p><b>OBSTETRICS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Doulas*</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Lamaze Class</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> OB/GYN Exams</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> OB/GYN Prepaid Maternity Fees (reimbursable after date of birth)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Pre- and Postnatal Treatments</li> </ul> <p><b>PRACTITIONERS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Allergist</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Chiropractor</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Christian Science Practitioner</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Dermatologist</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Homeopath</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Naturopath*</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Optometrist</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Osteopath</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Physician</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Psychiatrist or Psychologist</li> </ul> <p><b>THERAPY</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Alcohol and Drug Addiction</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Counseling (not marital or career)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Exercise Programs*</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Hypnosis*</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Massage*</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Occupational</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Physical</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Smoking Cessation Programs*</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Speech</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Weight Loss Programs*</li> </ul>
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**\*\*Please Note: Effective 1/1/2020, the IRS now allows Over the Counter (OTC) medicines/drugs and feminine care products to be purchased with Health Care FSA or certain HRA plans. Vitamins & supplements are not eligible.**

The following is a high-level list of OTC items that are *not* medicine or drugs and are eligible for purchase with Health Care FSA Plans.

<p><b>Denture Adhesives, Repair, and Cleansers</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> PoliGrip, Benzodent, Efferdent</li> </ul> <p><b>Diabetes Testing and Aids</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Insulin, Ascencia, One Touch, Diabetic Tussin, insulin syringes; glucose products</li> </ul> <p><b>Diagnostic Products</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Thermometers, blood pressure monitors, cholesterol testing</li> </ul>	<p><b>Elastics/Athletic Treatments</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> ACE, Futuro, elastic bandages, braces, hot/cold therapy, orthopedic supports, rib belts</li> </ul> <p><b>Eye Care</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Contact lens care</li> </ul> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Reading Glasses and Maintenance Accessories</p>	<p><b>Family Planning</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Pregnancy and ovulation kits</li> </ul> <p><b>First Aid Dressings and Supplies</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Band Aid, 3M Nexcare, non-sport tapes *without antibiotic strip</li> </ul> <p><b>Incontinence Products</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Attends, Depend, GoodNites for juvenile incontinence</li> </ul>
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**For a detailed list, log in to our website at [www.cpa125.com](http://www.cpa125.com) and click on the link to the FSA Store to view the eligibility list.**



## **Important Information About Your PREPAID BENEFITS CARD**

If you're newly enrolled in the Flexible Spending Account Program, you will automatically receive the new blue Prepaid Benefits Card. You'll receive two cards at your home address for you and your family members to use. The Cards will arrive in a special envelope that looks like this – so please don't throw it out!



Your Prepaid Benefits Card is loaded with the value of your annual FSA\HSA election amount (less any amounts you have already spent in this plan year.) Using your Card helps you keep cash in your wallet and makes accessing your FSA funds easy. The Card can be used, instead of cash, to pay for qualified health care expenses such as:

- Prescription and health plan copayments, deductibles and coinsurance
- "Amount Due" on medical and dental statements
- Orthodontics
- Mail-order or online prescription invoices
- Vision services and eyeglasses
- LASIK surgery
- Eligible over-the-counter (OTC) items

You'll simply swipe your Card each time you incur a qualified health care expense and the amount of your purchase will be deducted from your FSA– automatically. You can also fill in your Card number on bills you receive from providers to pay the amount you owe. You'll have no claim forms to complete and you won't have to wait to get a check in the mail. You can check balances or account details anytime – online at [www.cpa125.com](http://www.cpa125.com) or via the mobile app -- **CPA FLEX MOBILE**. It's that easy!

### **It's Important to Save Your Receipts!**

Your Prepaid Benefits Card will definitely improve your cash flow. However, be aware that the IRS requires the Card be used only for eligible expenses. Most of the time, we can verify the eligibility of the expense automatically. Yet, there are instances when you'll receive a letter/notification asking you to furnish an itemized receipt to verify the expense. When you receive such a request, make sure you submit the receipts as soon as possible to avoid having your Card suspended until receipts have been submitted and approved.

### **What is an itemized receipt?**

An itemized receipt must include: merchant or provider name, services received or item purchased, date of service, and amount of the expense. Cancelled checks, handwritten receipts, card transaction receipts or previous balance receipts cannot be used to verify an expense.

### **Using Your Card is as Easy as 1-2-3!**

Look for additional information about how to use your new Prepaid Benefits Cards included with your card packet in the mail. We hope you enjoy this new exciting feature of your plan! Remember, the Card will not work at gas stations or restaurants – only at health care related providers.

**Save your card. Every year you re-enroll, the funds get loaded on to this card!**

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