



HSA Employer News!

June 2013

Why Employees Should Shop for Prescription Drugs

A recent study by [Consumer Reports](#) revealed the benefits of comparison shopping when buying prescription medications. Encourage your employees to compare prices between stores before filling a prescription. Costs for the same medication can vary dramatically.

Consumer Reports compared drug prices at several major retailers for a month's supply of five common medications: Actos for diabetes, Lexapro for depression, Singulair for asthma, Plavix for blood clots and Lipitor for high cholesterol. All five prescriptions recently became available as generic drugs. The study found a range of \$749 between the most expensive and least expensive retailers for the identical drug. Of that list, Costco consistently offered the best prices while CVS Caremark, Rite Aid and Target charged more.

That said, you needn't take our word for it. There are plenty of tools and resources out there to help consumers compare prices. The site [GoodRx](#), for example, will allow you type in your ZIP Code and it will do the comparing for you. They even offer a mobile App for comparisons on-the-fly!

If employees are having difficulty paying for prescriptions, they have options. It just takes a little legwork.

Consumer Driven Health Plans Credited for Decrease in National Health Spending

Two recently released studies have credited Consumer Driven Health Plans (CDHPs) for the slower growth rate of national health spending. Unlike previous studies on the same topic where CDHPs earned little or no credit, these two studies by Harvard Medical School economists and the Center for Studying Health Systems Change both indicate that the slower growth rate of per capita national health spending is due at least in part to CDHPs.

Did You Know?

Consumer Driven Health Plans (CDHPs) are now more common than Health Maintenance Organizations (HMOs). In addition, CDHPs are running a close second in popularity to Preferred Provider Organizations (PPOs).

By offering a CDHP, you are leading the health care trend. The recently released Aon Hewitt 2012 Healthcare Survey* noted that the CDHP trend is just 2% points less than the PPO trend. As health care costs continue to climb, more and more employers are looking for ways to reduce unnecessary expenses while achieving better health for their employees and their families. The Bancorp Bank is proud to be your HSA partner and a strong proponent of CDHPs.

*Aon Hewitt is a global provider of health and benefits consulting.

Enjoy a healthy June!