

HSA SMARTNEWS!

June 2013

It Pays to Shop for Prescription Drugs

You probably compare prices before making purchases at the grocery store or the gas pump, but do you search for bargains when filling a prescription? A recent study by [Consumer Reports](#) reveals the benefits of comparison shopping when buying prescription medications. The study found that drug prices vary widely between stores. Costco offered the best prices while CVS Caremark, Rite Aid and Target charged more.

The study 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 spread in price of \$749 between the most expensive and least expensive retailers for the same items.

Clearly, that's a huge disparity from retailer to retailer. But who has time to visit every store in your area to compare prices for generic drugs?

Luckily, there are online tools out there to help make this process easier. For example, you can try sites like [GoodRX](#) to compare prices without even leaving your home. As the old saying goes, "Forewarned is forearmed." You can save yourself both a lot of legwork and a lot of money simply by doing a little research before you go out shopping.

More Take-Home Pay with an HSA

Today, everyone is looking for ways to stretch a dollar. Using your HSA is a great way to help make ends meet. With an HSA you can pay for your qualified medical expenses with pre-tax dollars, helping you save up to 25% or more¹.

Using an HSA to pay for qualified medical expenses allows you to take home more pay. In the following example, using your HSA to pay for \$2,000 in qualified medical expenses can put more than \$650 extra in your pocket².

¹ Savings may vary based on your tax bracket. HSA contributions up to annual contribution limits are not subject to federal income tax. Most states with state income taxes also allow pre-tax HSA contributions, however state tax codes vary. Please consult a tax advisor for more information.

² Savings may vary based on your tax bracket. In this example, 20% federal, 5% state, and 7.65% payroll taxes are used. Payroll taxes realized when HSA contributions are made through an employer's Section 125 plan. Please consult a tax advisor for more information.

	With an HSA	Without an HSA
Earnings	\$10,000	\$10,000
HSA contribution	(\$2,000)	\$0
Remaining earnings	\$8,000	\$10,000
Federal, state, and payroll taxes ²	(\$2,612)	(\$3,265)
Money left in your pocket	\$5,388 + \$2,000 in HSA	\$6,735
\$2,000 in qualified medical expenses	(\$2,000)	(\$2,000)
Money left in your pocket	\$5,388	\$4,735

National Men's Health Week, June 10-16

Established by an Act of Congress in 1994, National Men's Health Week is celebrated each year during the week leading up to and including Father's Day. Many men are less likely than women to make their preventive health care a priority. National Men's Health Week, celebrated this year from June 10 through June 16, is a time to remind men about steps they can take to live healthier and longer lives.

The week gives health care providers, public policy makers, the media and individuals an opportunity to encourage men and boys to seek regular medical advice and early treatment for disease and injury. Wear blue, and persuade others, to wear blue during National Men's Health Week to show your support and remind men to stay healthy. Sponsor or participate in community and workplace awareness activities to bring potentially life-saving information to men. For more information about Men's Health Week, contact info@menshealthweek.org.

Enjoy a healthy June!