



High Deductible Health Plans

HEALTH CARE FOR ALL

What is a deductible?

- A deductible is the amount of money you first have to pay out-of-your-pocket before your health insurance plan helps pay for your health care costs (medical bills). You also have to pay your monthly health plan cost (premium).

What is a high deductible health plan?

- A high deductible health plan is a plan that has a large deductible.

How large is the deductible?

- It depends on the plan that you have, and the deductible size can change every year. Call your health insurance company to find out what your deductible is.

Can I get any health care costs (medical bills) paid for before paying my deductible?

- Maybe. Some high deductible health plans offer paid health care benefits like immunizations and certain screenings before you pay (meet) your deductible. Call your health insurance company to find out more.

Will I have to pay a tax penalty for my high deductible health plan?

- You must have health insurance that meets state and federal guidelines or you may have to pay a tax penalty. A high deductible health plan **may** or **may not** meet the guidelines. Call your health insurance company or human resources department to make sure that your high deductible health plan meets all laws.

What should I look out for with high deductible health plans?

- High deductible health plans will not pay for most of your medical bills until you have paid (met) your plan deductible.
- If you have a lot of medical bills (doctor's visits, prescriptions, or other costs), you will have to pay for all of them out-of-your-pocket until you pay the full amount of your deductible. For example, if you have a \$1,250 deductible and your medical bills are \$250, \$800, and \$75, you will have to pay for all of these bills out-of-pocket!
- Make sure that your high deductible health plan meets all laws to count as health insurance. If it does not meet the laws, you will have to pay a penalty on your taxes for not having enough health insurance.