



Prescription required for over-the-counter medications?

Effective 1/1/2011 a new standard goes into effect for flexible spending accounts (FSAs) and health reimbursement arrangements (HRAs). Under this new standard (enacted as part of The Affordable Care Act in March 2010), over-the-counter medications cannot be reimbursed unless a prescription is obtained. This standard does not apply to: insulin, medical devices, eye glasses, contact lenses, co-pays or deductibles. Since the new standard applies only to purchases made on or after January 1, 2011, there is still time to use your benefits (if allowed by your employer's plan) to make these purchases in 2010. There are similar rules going into effect on 1/1/2011 for Health Saving Accounts (HSAs), and Archer Medical Savings Accounts (Archer MSAs) as well.