



## OTC DRUGS AND MEDICINES ARE NOW REIMBURSABLE WITHOUT A DOCTOR'S PRESCRIPTION!

### PARTICIPANT FAQ

April 10, 2020

The CARES Act, signed into law on March 27, 2020, has permanently eliminated the Affordable Care Act (ACA) requirement that participants in a Health FSA, HSA, and certain HRA plans must obtain a prescription from a doctor in order to be reimbursed for non-prescription "Over-The-Counter" drugs and medicines. This common sense change is exciting news for employees. We have prepared this FAQ to help you understand what this change means and what steps have been taken to enhance your BASIC Experience.

**Q:** Which Over-The-Counter (OTC) drugs and medicines are now reimbursable without a physician's prescription?

**A:** The number of OTC drugs and medicines that are now reimbursable under a standard Health FSA, Section 213 HRA, or HSA without a prescription is too long to list. In fact, the list includes almost 19,000 items. Below are just a few of the types of OTC expenses covered under this new law:

Acid Controllors	CPAP Machines	Prenatal Vitamins
Allergy and Sinus Medicine	Digestive Remedies	Respiratory Treatments
Anti-Gas Products	Hemorrhoid Medicine	Sleep Aids and Sedatives
Anti-Itch and Insect Bite Medicine	Laxatives	Stomach Remedies
Blood Pressure Monitors	Motion Sickness Treatments	Sunscreen (SPF 15+)
Cough, Cold & Flu Medicine	Pain Relievers	Thermometers

In addition, the CARES Act has added an entirely new category of allowable expenses. Hundreds of OTC Menstrual care products are now reimbursable without a prescription, including tampons, pads, liners, cups, sponges and much more!

**Q:** When does this new law take effect?

**A:** The CARES Act allows participants to be reimbursed for any qualified expenses purchased on or after January 1, 2020. Of course, you can only be reimbursed for expenses purchased previously if you have saved your itemized receipts.

**Q:** When can I start submitting these expenses to BASIC?

**A:** You may submit claims for these expenses immediately.

**Q:** Can I be reimbursed for the cost of vitamins and supplements?

**A:** Vitamins and supplements still require a physician's "prescription" indicating they are being taken to treat a diagnosed medical condition (e.g., anemia) rather than for general health and wellness. The only exception are prenatal vitamins taken before and during pregnancy.

**Q:** I have a BASIC debit card. Can I use it to purchase qualified OTC drugs, medicines and menstrual care products?

**A:** Yes. However, industry sources project it could take until the end of May (or longer) for all retail merchants to completely update their point-of-sale systems. During this period, if you have a BASIC debit card, you may try to use it whenever making purchases for qualified items. But understand that some or all of these OTC and menstrual expenses may be denied on your card until all merchant updates are completed.

**Q:** What should I do if my card is denied for a qualified OTC purchase?

**A:** If a debit card purchase is denied because the merchant's system is not updated, you will need to pay for the expense using another form of payment, ensure you obtain an itemized receipt from the merchant (that identifies each item purchased in a clear manner), and then submit a claim to BASIC for reimbursement by check or direct deposit.

**Q:** I am a participant in a Limited Purpose Health FSA with BASIC that only covers dental and vision related expenses. Can I use my BASIC debit card to purchase these OTC expenses?

**A:** No. However, you can submit a claim for qualified OTC expenses, as long as the expenses are for dental and vision care.

**Q:** How can I submit claims to BASIC if my debit card doesn't work?

**A:** You may submit claims using the participant portal, mobile app, or by using a traditional claim form with supporting itemized receipts sent by regular mail, fax or email (not available to all participants).

**Q:** Where can I find a list of qualified expenses?

**A:** If you are a current participant with BASIC, you can find more detailed information in our **Eligible Expense List** on our portal. The list will be updated by April 23, 2020. In addition, the FSA/HSA Store offers a broad array of products that are eligible for reimbursement without a prescription. If you access the FSA/HSA Store site from your BASIC portal or mobile app, you'll receive the best pricing available and your card purchases will automatically be linked to your BASIC account. If you are not a current participant, information is readily available on the internet.

Please don't hesitate to reach out to us if you have further questions or require assistance.

Sincerely,

Your BASIC Team

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