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Employers welcome expansion of HSAs to permit pre-deductible coverage of chronic illness

Council recommended change as part of 2014 health policy agenda

WASHINGTON, DC – “We are pleased and proud that the Treasury Department is pursuing valuable guidance to increase the usefulness of Health Savings Accounts (HSAs),” American Benefits Council (Council) President James A. Klein said today. “Guidance issued today fulfills one of many HSA recommendations made by the Council in our report [Magnifying A 2020 Vision: A Closer Look at Selected Proposals to Strengthen Employer-Sponsored Health Benefits](#). We have been diligently pursuing these proposals since 2014.”

The guidance released today in conjunction with the White House will allow health plans that must be used with HSAs to cover preventive treatment of chronic disease before a plan’s deductible is met.

“Pre-existing, chronic conditions are debilitating for millions of Americans. These conditions also represent an enormous drain on the economy through high health costs and reduced employee productivity. Modernizing HSAs to address chronic disease prevention is important to help tackle this problem,” Klein said. “We remain committed to working with the Administration and Congress to build on this guidance and make HSAs more flexible.”

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For more information on health policy, or to arrange an interview with Klein or Kathryn Wilber, senior counsel, health policy, contact Jason Hammersla, Council vice president, communications, at jhammersla@abcstaff.org or by phone at 202-289-6700 (office) or (202) 422-4652 (cell).

The Council is a public policy organization whose members include over 220 of the world’s largest corporations, as ranked by Fortune and Forbes. Collectively, the Council’s members either directly sponsor or administer health and retirement benefits for virtually all Americans covered by employer-sponsored plans.