



# 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.