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How Much More Cost Sharing Will Health Savings Accounts Bring?

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Abstract

Proponents of health savings accounts (HSAs) contend that they will reduce medical expenditures. In practice, however, the effect of HSAs, and the high-deductible health plans that must accompany them, w depend on the actual provisions of those plans and of the plans they replace. We show that typical plans the market today already contain substantial cost sharing. We find that many HSA/high-deductible arrangements would actually reduce cost sharing for many groups. In particular, the group responsible fo half of all medical spending would see no change or a decline in cost sharing at the margin and on averag

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NOTES

1.

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