

**Position Statement
on
Health Savings Accounts (HSAs) and
Flexible Spending Accounts (FSAs)
(Approved by the Board of Directors: March 21, 1997; Revised May 20, 2017)**

The American Academy of Dermatology Association (AADA) believes that all Americans should have access to affordable, quality dermatologic health care and should be free to choose their own physicians and the health insurance that best meets their needs. The national trend toward high-deductible health plans has the potential to limit patients' access to care because of unaffordable out-of-pocket health care costs. To foster patient choice and access to care, the AADA endorses adequately increasing incentives and subsidies for individuals, employers, and health plans to promote those measures, including savings and spending accounts, that help ensure that all Americans, regardless of means or income level, will have access to a physician of their choice and be able to cover the cost of care.

Health Savings Accounts¹ (HSAs) are custodial accounts established to pay for qualified medical expenses in conjunction with high-deductible health insurance policies. Flexible Spending Accounts² (FSA) are employer-sponsored accounts that allow employees to save pre-tax dollars and use them for out-of-pocket health care services. Both accounts are designed to mitigate out-of-pocket health care costs to patients and provide patients with greater flexibility and choice.

The advantages of HSAs and FSAs include the following:

- Encouraging individuals to allocate savings for their health care needs. The individual has an incentive to monitor utilization in order to preserve the funds in his or her HSA and /or FSA account(s).
- Preserving the patient-physician relationship and protecting access to specialty physicians such as dermatologists by reducing out of pocket costs associated with high copays and deductibles.
- Potentially increasing access to health care for portions of the population otherwise left without care, including unemployed individuals.

In its commitment to the patient-physician relationship and to increasing Americans' access to coverage and care, the American Academy of Dermatology Association supports reducing restrictions, including, but not limited to, providing additional incentives and subsidies to individuals, employers, and health plans that increase the availability of and provide access to Health Savings Accounts and Flexible Spending Accounts for all Americans.

This Position Statement is provided for educational and informational purposes only. It is intended to offer physicians guiding principles and policies regarding the practice of dermatology. This Position Statement is not intended to establish a legal or medical standard of care. Physicians should use their personal and professional judgment in interpreting these guidelines and applying them to the particular circumstances of their individual practice arrangements.

¹ 26 U.S. Code § 223

² 26 U.S. Code §125