



# EDDLEMAN & EDDLEMAN<sub>LLC</sub>

## Health Care Sharing Ministries . . .

*as an Exemption from Obamacare Individual Mandate*

### Three Most Utilized Healthcare Sharing Ministries:

Christian Healthcare Ministries  
Medi-Share  
Samaritan

A Health Care Sharing Ministry (HCSM) is an organization that facilitates sharing of health care costs between individual members who have common ethical or religious beliefs. An HCSM **does not use actuaries, does not accept risk or make guarantees, and does not purchase reinsurance policies** on behalf of its members. However, members of HCSMs are exempt from the individual responsibility requirements of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA) often referred to as Obamacare so long as the HCSM meets the followings federally defined criteria, which could be subject to change:

- ✓ Must be a 501(c)(3) organization
- ✓ Members must share common ethical or religious beliefs
- ✓ Must not discriminate membership based on state of residence or employment
- ✓ Members cannot lose membership due to development of a medical condition
- ✓ Must have existed and been in practice continually since December 31, 1999
- ✓ Must be subject to an annual audit by an independent CPA which must be publicly available upon request

This means **members of federally recognized HCSMs are not required to have insurance as outlined in the Obamacare individual mandate**, will avoid the annual tax that may be as high as 2.5% of income or higher in future years, and may actually find the value of an HCSM as more beneficial than traditional health insurance. The following is some overview and contact information with sample family monthly rates and annual deductible/co-pay/maximum coverage information to the right.

One of the most common other questions regarding HCSMs is, are they considered High Deductible Health Plans (HDHPs) for Health Savings Accounts (HSAs). Currently HCSMs are not eligible to qualify as HDHPs for HSAs, however, legislation has been introduced in Congress several times (and failed) which would make HCSMs with similar member payment portions HDHPs.

## **Christian Healthcare Ministries**

800-791-6225

<http://www.chministries.org/>

Gold: \$450	\$ 500 per incident, per unit year	Up to \$125,000 in total expenses per incident
Silver: \$255	\$1,000 per incident, per unit year	Up to \$125,000 in total expenses per incident
Bronze: \$135	\$5,000 per incident, per unit year	Up to \$125,000 in total expenses per incident
Catastrophic: ~\$30	Provides additional coverage up to \$1,000,000, which we would recommend for most	

The member pays the medical provider directly and submits a copy of the bill to CHM for reimbursement, which usually takes 60-90 days from the date CHM receives your itemized bill and submission paperwork. CHM recommends that payment not be made to the provider at the time of service so that negotiations for payment can be made by CHM, unless you receive a discount of 40% or more.

## **Medi-Share**

800-772-5623

<https://mychristiancare.org/medi-share/>

Cost: \$375	\$ 5,000 family
\$223	\$10,000 family

Each month, your share is matched with another member's eligible medical expenses. Medi-Share identifies members whose share amounts will pay your medical bills. You pay your health care provider with other members' sharing funds deposited in your ACCU account. Other members will know exactly who their share is helping. Once the household portion is paid for the year, benefits are 100% of eligible medical expenses.

## **Samaritan**

888-268-4377

<http://samaritanministries.org/>

Cost: \$405	\$300 per incident*	Coverage up to \$250,000 in total expenses per incident
\$399		For coverage of medical costs exceeding \$250,000

Each month there is a fixed amount of shares available from members that will be sent to meet needs. The amount of needs in a given month may fluctuate and be greater or less than the shares available. If shares exceed needs, a reduction in share amount may occur (last occurrence was October 2008). If needs exceed shares, then your payment will be prorated based on the total amount received vs. needed (e.g. \$900,000 shares received to pay \$1,000,000 in bills, 90% of your bills will be paid).

*\*Not included in negotiated reductions (e.g. If your medical bill would have been \$1,200, you or Samaritan negotiate it to \$800 in advance, Samaritan member pays \$800 because the savings is more than the \$300.)*

## **Other Healthcare Sharing Organizations who may be ACA Exempt:**

*The following are other Healthcare Sharing organizations we are aware of that we have provided for your convenience, comparison, and in case an additional alternative absolutely needs to be considered. However, we urge a **higher level of caution in considering these providers** as they are not as broadly used, have smaller pools of membership, and as of our last evaluation less than adequate customer service.*

### **Liberty Healthshare (YES - PPACA EXEMPT)**

877-778-7638 or 855-585-4237

<https://www.libertyhealthshare.org/>

### **Altrua HealthShare (UNCONFIRMED IF MEETS PPACA EXEMPTION)**

888-244-3839

<http://altruahealthshare.com/>

*DISCLOSURE: Rates and other financial specifics for HCSM members may vary and financial information stated in this document may be subject to change without notice. Eddleman & Eddleman, LLC, neither endorses nor recommends the use of specific HCSMs or HCSMs in general. You should consult your Certified Public Accountant (CPA), Financial Planner, or other financial professional to help you evaluate the use of an HCSM as opposed to health insurance for your situation. Eddleman & Eddleman, LLC, receives no compensation from any HCSM. Eddleman & Eddleman, LLC, is compensated only by clients who pay fees for advice. The Eddleman family does utilize Christian Healthcare Ministries. In full disclosure, those choosing to use Christian Healthcare Ministries as a HCSM may list Adrian Eddleman as a referral party whereby his family would receive a one time, one month's premium waiver.*