



## **Sterling Guide to Tax-Related HSA questions**

As tax deadlines approach once again, Sterling HSA provides the following information to help guide you in preparation of your tax return as it pertains to your HSA account with us. It is important to remember, however, that Sterling does not give tax advice, so please consider these are informed guidelines. Specific tax questions should be referred to your CPA or tax preparer.

The following outlines various tax documents that you may receive and the purpose of each, especially regarding information on your HSA:

**Form W-2**: This is a form that employers file with the IRS to report on wages and benefits given to employees. All employer contributions to an employee's HSA account are recorded on form W-2 in Box 12, code W. Please note that an employee's contributions through a POP or cafeteria plan are also reported by the employer on form W-2 in Box 12, code W.

Employer contributions to an employee's HSA account must also include any amount that the employer contributed towards the account management fees charged by Sterling HSA.

**Form 5498-SA** is a form that Sterling generates and mails to our accountholders in late April of every year. We send an electronic version of this report to the IRS by May 31. We report the contributions made to the HSA account, regardless of who made the contribution. Please note that the contributions reported on this form reflect contributions to the HSA account minus fees charged by Sterling.

**Form 1099-SA** is a form that Sterling generates and mails to our accountholders in January of every year. We also send an electronic version of this report to the IRS. We report distributions made from the HSA account as requested by the accountholder.

**Form 8889** is a form that the taxpayer must complete and send to the IRS along with their 1040 tax return. The form should reflect contributions (deposits) and distributions (payments) to/from the HSA account. Our accountholders can use their year-end statement from Sterling HSA to complete this form, unless they plan to make additional contributions before April 15, 2009. If additional contributions are made, the accountholder will need to include that information as well.

In addition to the information included in the documents detailed above, Sterling accountholders may also be able to deduct the fees paid to Sterling from their tax return. This depends upon the taxpayer's financial situation and your tax preparer should be consulted.

If you need additional information from Sterling HSA in order to complete tax returns, please contact us at [customer.service@sterlinghsa.com](mailto:customer.service@sterlinghsa.com) or by calling 800-617-4729.