





# Understanding Your New MERS HCSP Account

Prepared for: Wayne County Retirees

Presented by: John Waugh, MERS Benefit Plan Advisor Allison Meyer, Alerus Client Service Manager







### **Agenda**

- New stipend amounts for 2022
- Action items: myMERS, beneficiaries, and direct deposit
- Eligible expenses
- Using your account claims and reimbursement options
- Investment options
- Key takeaways and tips
- Resources
- Frequently Asked Questions
- Important contacts
- Q&A



### **New 2022 Stipend Amounts**

### **Starting January 2022:**

\$140.25

 Those retirees whose health insurance benefits were established and modified by the 1990 Wayne County Health and Welfare Plan

\$135.25

All other retirees











### **Action Items**



### **Action Items – What's Next?**

- Your accounts are now live in our system.
- You can:
  - Create your myMERS online account
  - 2 Set up direct deposit
  - Name beneficiaries
  - Submit claims
  - Review and change investments



### Create your myMERS account

Creating your myMERS account is recommended, but <u>not required</u> to use your MERS HCSP funds.

#### Your myMERS account provides:

- 24/7 access to your HCSP account
- > Allows you to:
  - Update contact information
  - · Change your investments
  - Add/edit beneficiaries
  - Submit claims
  - Set up direct deposit
  - Set up pay to provider





### Create your myMERS account

#### To create your myMERS account:

- 1. Visit www.mersofmich.com
- 2. Click on "Create myMERS account" under the green "Log In" button.
- 3. Provide the requested personal information.

Important: Enter your Hire Month and Year as "01/1950". Failure to do so will prohibit you from creating your myMERS account.

- 4. For your security, you will be prompted to verify your identity through two-factor authentication upon login, which means:
  - You will receive a text message, email, or voice call from our recordkeeper, Alerus, with your verification code.
  - Enter the code and submit to access your account



### **Set Up Direct Deposit**

- Direct deposit ensures you get your reimbursements paid as quickly as possible compared to regular mail.
- Direct deposit can be set up two ways:
  - 1. Online using your myMERS account
  - Completing the HCSP Direct Deposit Agreement form

➤ Tip: The fastest, most secure way is to use your myMERS account



## **Direct Deposit Form**



MERS Health Care Savings Program PO Box 64535 • St. Paul, MN 55164-0535 866.808.7823 (option 3) www.mersofmich.com

Health Care Sav	ings Prog	ram Dir	ect	Deposit Agree	ment
Use this form if you are establishing or up Program account. This information can all the "Claims Management" link in your left-	so be managed	securely u	sing y	our myMERS account.	•
Submit your reimbursement ele You have several options:	ctronically!				
Reimbursement Claim Form using your myMERS account at	Download the A Health Benefits attach your rece your mobile dev camera.	app and eipt using	•	Set up direct paymen uploading a copy of to from your doctor's off Health Care Savings to be used to directly pa	he bill you received ice. Assets from your Program account will
Please print clearly • Retain copy for your records					
1. Information about you					
Last name*	First name*			Last four digits of SSN*	Phone number (with area code)*
Type of application (select only ONE):	v Change				
2. Account information					
Checking account Savings account					
Financial Institution name					
THE RESIDENCE OF CONTRACT OF THE PROPERTY OF T					
Address			Phor	ne	
City	State	Zip			
ABA routing number (9 digit)		Account nun	ber		
3. Required signature					



### The Benefit That Keeps Working

#### **Upon Enrollment**

Participant, spouse and any legal dependent(s) may use the account for medical expense reimbursement (tax-free)



#### **Upon Death of Participant**

Spouse and any legal dependent(s) may continue to use the account for medical expense reimbursement (tax-free)



#### **Upon Death of Spouse/Legal Dependent**

Primary Beneficiary may use the account for medical expense reimbursement (taxed at time of payment)



#### **Upon Death of Primary Beneficiary**

Contingent Beneficiary may use the account for medical expense reimbursement (taxed at time of payment)



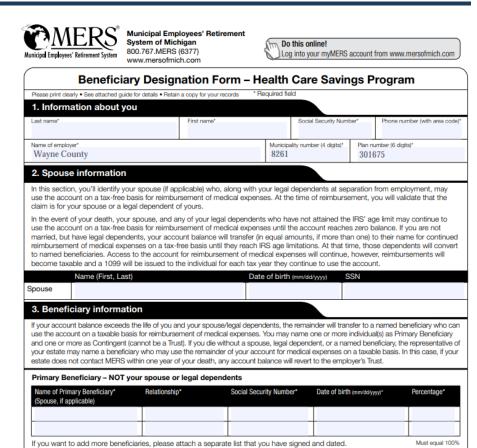
The ability to name beneficiaries who can use your account balance after you pass away is unique to MERS



### Name Your Beneficiaries

Add or change your beneficiaries in two ways:

- Your myMERS account (fastest and safest)
- Complete and return or upload the MERS Beneficiary Designation Form
- 3. Listed beneficiaries should be someone other than spouse or dependents



Contingent Beneficiary - NOT your spouse or legal dependents

If you want to add more beneficiaries, please attach a separate list that you have signed and dated



Must equal 100%









# **Eligible Expenses**



## **Most Common Expenses**

- Insurance Premiums
  - Medicare Part B
  - Medicare Advantage
  - Medigap
  - Dental
  - Vision
  - Long-term Care
- Medical Expenses
  - Prescriptions
  - Co-pays
  - Office visits
  - Medical equipment



### **Eligible Expenses**

# The full list of expenses can be found in IRS Publication 502 by visiting: <a href="https://www.irs.gov/publications/p502">https://www.irs.gov/publications/p502</a>

- Ambulance
- Artificial limbs
- Blood tests
- Blood transfusions
- Braces
- Cardiographs
- Chiropractor
- Contact lenses
- Crutches
- Dental treatment
- Dentures
- Dermatologists
- Diagnostic fees
- Drug addiction therapy
- Drugs (prescription)

- Elastic hosiery (prescription)
- Eyeglasses
- Healing services
- Hearing aids
- Health care insurance premiums\*
- Insulin treatment
- Lab tests
- Long-term care insurance
- Medicare B premium
- Operating room costs
- Ophthalmologist
- Orthopedist
- Osteopath
- Pediatrician

- Physician
- Podiatrist
- Practical nurse for medical services
- Prescription medicines
- Splints
- Surgeon
- Therapy equipment
- Vaccines
- X-rays











# **Using Your Account**



### Reimbursement/Payment Options



### **Paper Form**





### myMERS Online Account

Best option for paying expenses that can be adjusted after the point of service!



### Mobile App

Fastest option



#### **Health Benefits Debit Card**

Best option for paying fixed-price expenses such as prescriptions and co-pays



### Paper Forms by Mail

# Complete and return your HCSP Reimbursement Claim Form and evidence of expense and payment by Mail

MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES' Refirement System	PO Box 64535 • St. Paul, MN 55164-0535 866.808.7823 (option 3) www.mersofmich.com		
	Inty Health Care Savings Proude for details • Retain a copy for your records	ogram Reimbursement	Claim
Upload your Reim	bursement Electronically sbursement Claim Form to the Claims Mana rus Health Benefits app and attach your re you  First name*	ceipt using your mobile device's cam	
Name of employer*  Wayne County –Munic	cipality #8261; Plan # 301675		
the third-party receipt sh	mbursement ate any one-time reimbursement details by listin nowing payment and the associated bill or state mplate processing. Expenses may <b>not</b> be those	ment detailing the expense incurred and	
Date(s) Provided	Expense (Co-pays, Rx, Dentist, etc.)	Provided to (Name, relationship)	Total
			\$
			\$
			\$
	Attach additional forms if need	ded Claim Total	
Recurring Exp	ense		
	nent for a recurring expense that is paid monthly should be itemized on its own line below.	(such as insurance premiums or Medica	are Part B), use the
		Month of coverage	
Coverage Type (medical, dental, Medican	Provided to e, etc) (Name, relationship)	(12 months max)	Monthly Amount
			\$
(medical, dental, Medican	a, etc) (Name, relationship) sement form should be completed for each type	(12 months max)	
(medical, dental, Medican  A different reimbur of premium. For ex	e, etc) (Name, relationship)	(12 months max)	\$

ast name* (please print clearly)	Social Security Number*
3. Payment direct to provider	
Skip this section if reimbursement is being directed esult in delays in processing this form.	d to you. Please complete all required information - incomplete submissions may
Provider name*	Provider account number*
Provider address line 1*	Provider address line 2
Provider city*	Provider state* Provider ztp*
4. Claimant's certification and signatu	ure
<ol> <li>I certify that all expenses for which reimbursements by my dependent(s)</li> </ol>	nent of payment is claimed by submission of this form were incurred either by me
Revenue Code, Section 213(d). I understand th	me or by my dependent(s) are "qualifying expenses" as defined by the Internal hat if these medical expenses are deemed not to be qualified medical expenses, I on amounts paid by the Plan related to such unqualified expenses.
<ol> <li>I certify that the medical expenses claimed have coverage.</li> </ol>	ve not been reimbursed or cannot be reimbursed under any other health plan
4. I take full responsibility for the accuracy and ver	eracity of all the information I have provided. I certify I am entitled to these benefits.
5. I understand that all reimbursements are made	by Direct Deposit from MERS HCSP and must go into the same account.
Signature of member*	Date (mm/dd/ywy)*

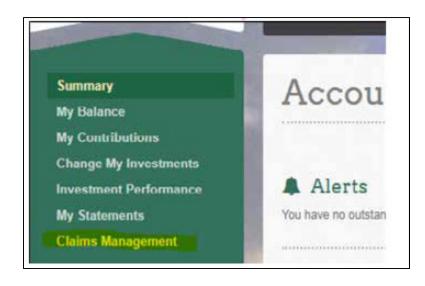
\* Required field

Please mail completed forms to:
Alerus Retirement and Benefits
ATTN: Health Benefits Department
PO Box 64535
St. Paul, MN 55164-0535



### **Using Your Account**

### myMERS Account - Claims Management Portal



# In the Claims Management Portal you can:

- File a claim online
- Request payment directly to your provider
- Upload receipts and track expenses
- Much more!



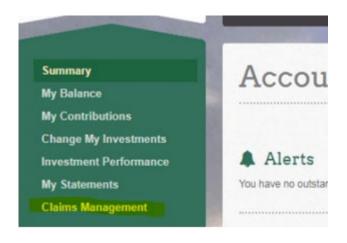
### **Online/Mobile Reimbursements**

#### **Account Access**

**Employers & Participants** 

LOG IN

Upload receipts and submit claims through your online myMERS account







Take a picture of your receipt and submit it in a snap using the Alerus Retirement Benefits mobile app.





### **Pay Directly To Provider**

### myMERS website



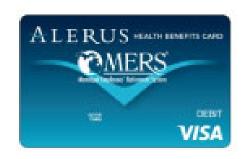
#### HCSP Claims Reimbursement Form





### **Health Benefits Debit Card**

- Two cards per account
- Great for point-of-service expenses such as prescriptions and co-pays



- Best for those who:
  - Are not getting insurance premium reimbursements
  - Have coverage through a spouse
  - Have unused funds in their account
- Do not use your debit card if:
  - You do not have excess funds in your account
  - You get reimbursed each month for your insurance or Medicare Part B premium











# **Proof of Payment**



### **Acceptable Proof of Payment**

Avoid delays or denials. Be sure to submit the proper documentation.

#### **Acceptable Documentation**

- Social Security Statement for Medicare Part B
- Insurance renewal with policy and premium
- Insurance Explanation of Benefits
- Itemized bill from medical provider
- Store/Pharmacy Receipt
- Co-pay receipt from provider
- Must include date of service

#### **Unacceptable Documentation**

- Bank or credit card statement
- Credit card receipt only
- Cancelled check











# **Investment Options**



## **Review and Change Investments**

 Previously, your TASC HRA offered no ability to earn interest or invest funds



- Now, the first \$1,000 will be deposited into an interest bearing money market fund
- Any funds above \$1,000 will be invested





### **Simplified Investment Options**

- Understanding the decisionmaking process has helped us design a strategic investment menu
- Grouping investment options into logical categories helps participants easily create fully diversified portfolios
- Our pre-built portfolio funds use outside institutional investment managers that are selected and monitored by MERS

### **Investment Categories**

1

#### "Do it for me"

Fully diversified target date funds that automatically adjust over time

2

#### "Help me do it"

Prebuilt portfolios and individual funds to build your own portfolio



# 1

# "Do it for me"

### MERS Retirement Strategies - Target Date Funds

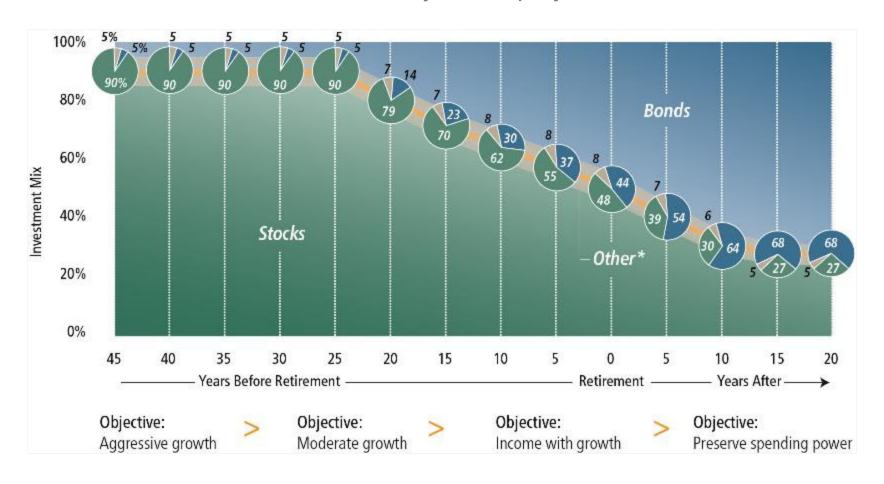
- A simple, effective all-in-one and highly-diversified investment choice
- Asset allocation changes from an emphasis on growth potential to a more conservative asset mix as participant approaches retirement age and throughout retirement
- Our Retirement Strategies are the default investment selection, based on projected target-date of retirement at age 65



# 1

## "Do it for me"

### Funds that transition automatically for employees



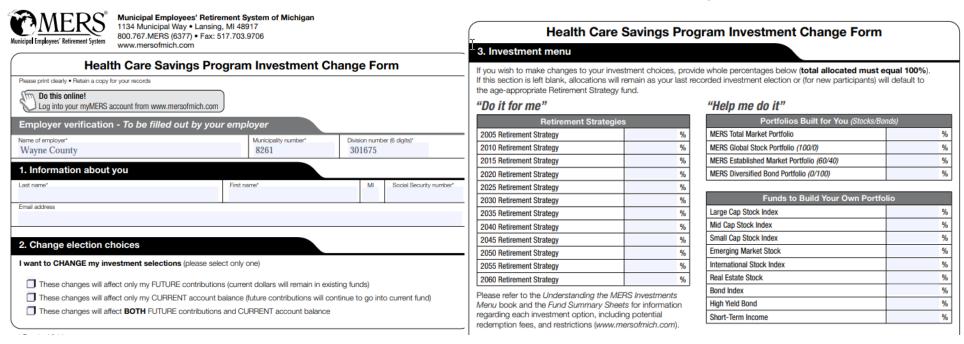


### **How to Change Your Investments**

No action needed if your account balance is under \$1,000.

Investments can be changed in two ways:

- Online using your myMERS account
- 2. Complete and return the HCSP Investment Change Form















- ✓ One account per person retiree and spouse
  - Two debit cards will be issued per account
  - Each account can be used for the retiree, spouse and dependents you claim on your tax return
- √You have a beneficiary option
  - Be sure to name them
  - Beneficiaries should be someone other than your spouse or dependents
- ✓ Any balance over \$1,000 will be invested
  - Review your options and make changes based on your risk tolerance and goals
- ✓ Claims no longer have to be filed by year end



- ✓It's easier to submit claims as they occur
- ✓ Direct deposit can go to the same checking/savings account BUT must be set up separately for each HCSP account
- ✓ Amwins Group Plan with Transamerica and/or Express Scripts claims process has changed
  - Amwins will bill for full premium
  - You will pay Amwins the full premium out-of-pocket by check or debit
  - Amwins will send us a monthly report of premiums paid
  - MERS/Alerus will send reimbursement to you via check or direct deposit (if setup)



- ✓ Save time set up a recurring reimbursement
  - Your Medicare Part B is larger than your stipend (the 2022 premium is \$170.10)
  - It is easier to set this up for recurring reimbursement than it is to pay Medicare Advantage, Medigap, or prescription premiums separately
  - You only need to submit documentation annually (i.e., your Social Security Statement)
  - Get reimbursed monthly by check or direct deposit (if setup)



- ✓ If you don't have internet, smart phone, or a tablet, etc. ask a family member or friend to help you
- ✓The fastest, safest way to submit claims is using myMERS or the mobile app. Mail takes longer and is much less secure
- ✓ Keep documentation, receipts, and proof of payment with your tax records.
  - Alerus doesn't retain copies of receipts.
  - Always keep all of your receipts and save them with your tax records each year.











# Frequently Asked Questions



### **Frequently Asked Questions**

# Q: If we have an account with TASC, will an account with MERS automatically be created?

A: Yes, your MERS HCSP account will automatically be created. However, in order to access the information or submit claims electronically, you will have to setup your myMERS online account. You can do this by going to <a href="https://www.mersofmich.com">www.mersofmich.com</a> and clicking on "Create myMERS Account". You must enter all the required information and go through the multifactor authentication to access their online account. **NOTE: Regardless of when you were actually hired, you must use 01/1950 as your month and year of hire to set up your account.** 

Q: Will all of my TASC account balances be transferred to MERS?

A: Yes, any remaining funds were transferred to MERS.



#### Q: Will all of my direct deposit information be transferred to MERS?

A: No, for your safety and security, TASC will not transfer your bank account information. For the fastest reimbursement of claims, you can set up your direct deposit with MERS online via your myMERS account or by completing the Direct Deposit Form that was included with your Welcome Packet, which was mailed from MERS during the second week of December.

#### Q: When will my new debit cards be sent out?

A: Your Alerus Retirement Health and Benefits debit cards should be delivered by January 1. In the event that you don't receive your card, please contact Alerus at 866-808-7823 (select option 3) to request one. Please note that you will receive two debit cards per HCSP account, so if you and your spouse both have HCSP accounts, you will receive four cards. Debit cards can be used by you, your spouse and your legal dependents. However, if you and your spouse both have HCSP accounts, it might make sense to use your own debit card for your account and your spouse use their debit card separately.



Q: Is my debit card connected to my bank account?

A: No, your new Alerus Retirement and Health Benefits debit card is only connected to your HCSP account.

Q: Will changing from TASC's HRA to MERS HCSP have any impact on my Amwins Group coverage through Transamerica or Express Scrips or my individual medical or prescription drug plan?

A: No, your HRA from TASC is transferring to MERS HCSP. It has no impact on your insurance coverage. The main difference will be how Amwins insurance premiums are billed, paid, and reimbursed. For all others, you will have to fill out new/different forms but otherwise, MERS HCSP operates very much the same way your TASC HRA did.



#### Q: Can I set up a recurring expense reimbursement?

A: Yes. Recurring claims reimbursement can be setup online via your myMERS account or by completing and submitting the Wayne County Health Care Savings Program Claim Form.

This new form was created just for Wayne County retirees to make it easier to file claims for ongoing expenses such as insurance premiums, one-time claims, and pay-to-provider.

For recurring expenses, be sure to fill in each month and the amount of the expense for each month you are claiming. For example, January through December requires 12 entries. You will be reimbursed in full for any past expenses provided funds are available, and then will be reimbursed monthly for future claims.

If you are a retiree on the Amwins Group Plan with Transamerica and/or Express Scripts, you do not need to complete this form for recurring expenses. If you are submitting for recurring reimbursement for multiple types of premiums (i.e., medical, dental, and vision) you should complete and submit three forms, one for each set of expenses.



#### Q: When will I receive my stipend each month from the County?

A: The County will work to report and submit funds approximately on the 25<sup>th</sup> of each month. Due to the timing of reporting and processing, it may take up to two business days to post to your account. During months where a holiday my fall within that timeframe, the County will report and remit your stipends early to ensure they are available by the 1<sup>st</sup> of each month.

## Q: When can I expect my reimbursement payment to post via direct deposit, check or credit to my debit card?

A: For claims received by noon, they would be processed the following business day for expenses that have already occurred. For future or recurring expenses, previously paid expenses would be processed the following business day and future expenses would be processed on the first of the month. Funds may take up to two business days to appear in your bank account. If funds are being sent via mail, please allow 10-15 business days from the time the claim is submitted to the time you receive your check. To avoid delays, it is highly recommended that you set up direct deposit for claims reimbursement. If the first day of the month falls on a weekend or holiday, processing would then be the next business day, and the payment would then appear two business days later.



#### Q: If my spouse and I have separate accounts, can they be combined after the transfer?

A: Unfortunately not. Just like with TASC, your accounts will be set up and funded separately.

Q: When do I need to contact MERS and/or Alerus for problems?

A: MERS and Alerus are here to help.

If you need assistance with accessing your myMERS account, making changes to your contact information, adding beneficiaries, or making investment changes, you should contact the MERS Service Center weekdays from 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. ET at 800-767-MERS (6377).

For help with setting up direct deposit, pay-to-provider, claims eligibility, claims status or questions about previously filed claims, you can call Alerus at 866-808-7823 (select option 3). As a reminder, you cannot submit claims until after January 1, 2022.



# Q: Is there a dedicated Wayne County phone number for MERS and Alerus or are they just general numbers?

A: MERS and Alerus are committed to serving your needs. MERS Service Center handles calls for all MERS employers and participants and can be reached weekdays from 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. ET at 800-767-MERS (6377). As our recordkeeper, Alerus has a dedicated extension for MERS employers and participants. They can be reached at 866-808-7823 (select option 3).

# Q: I haven't used my TASC account and have a lot money in it. Can I submit claims for services rendered before participation in MERS HCSP?

A: Yes. MERS doesn't have any limits to when claims can be filed. You can submit claims for insurance premiums paid, Medicare Part B, prescriptions, co-pays, office visits, etc., provided that the date of service was after your retirement date and that you have not submitted for a reimbursement of that claim previously with TASC or any other HRA provider (that would be a violation of IRA rules).



# Q: TASC didn't offer investment options and MERS does. What if I don't want my money invested?

A: One of the advantages of MERS HCSP is that you will now receive interest on your account balance up to \$1,000. If your account has a balance of \$1,000 or less, funds will remain in the interest bearing money market account.

Any assets above \$1,000 must be invested with MERS. By default, your assets will be invested in an age-appropriate Retirement Strategies (target date fund), but you can change how your current and future assets are investment at any time.

If you have concerns about losing money due to market volatility, MERS Investment Menu makes it easy to choose more conservative investment options to suit your comfort level with investment risk.

If you do not want any money invested in the market, you will need to submit claims for reimbursement to draw your account balance to \$1,000 or less.



#### Q: Can I name a trust as my HCSP beneficiary?

A: No. Per plan rules, primary and contingent beneficiaries must be a person or persons. As a reminder, HCSP funds can always be used for you, your spouse, and any legal dependents, so your beneficiaries should be someone other than your spouse or legal dependents. Examples include parents, adult children, siblings, aunts/uncles, or even a friend.

# Q: I am on the Wayne County Amwins Group plan through Transamerica and/or Express Scripts. Do I have to submit a claims form?

A: No, you will not need to submit a claims for premiums paid to Amwins. Amwins will bill you for the full premium, which you pay directly to Amwins. Then each month, Amwins will send MERS/Alerus a report of the premiums you paid. MERS/Alerus will then reimburse you up to the full amount of the premium paid, so long as funds are available in your account. For example, if you paid Amwins \$200 in premiums and your account balance is just the \$135.25 stipend from the County, MERS/Alerus will mail you a check for \$135.25 and would deny the remaining claim of \$64.75 due to insufficient funds. For faster claims reimbursement, be sure to set up your direct deposit.









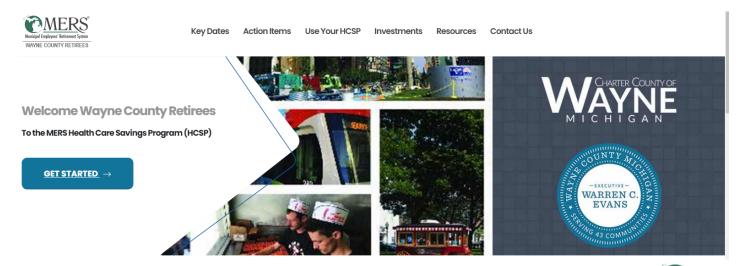




To better assist you with this transition, MERS has created a special website just for Wayne County retirees.

This site is a one-stop-shop for everything you need to know to use your new MERS HCSP account

The website can be found at: <a href="https://www.mersofmich.com/WayneCounty">www.mersofmich.com/WayneCounty</a>



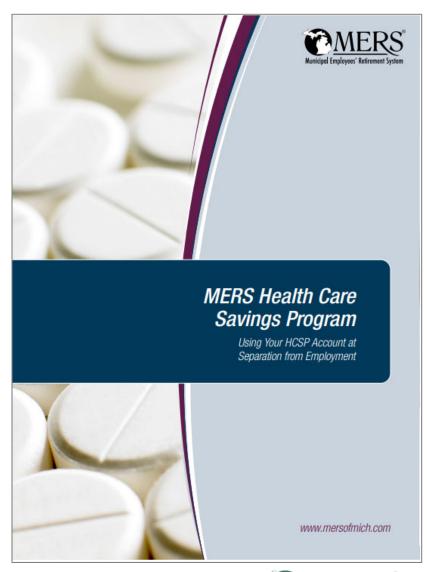


MERS Website for Wayne County Retirees has information on:

- ➤ Key dates
- >Action items
- ➤ How to use your HCSP
- >Investment information
- > Forms
- **≻**Publications
- >FAQ's
- >Important Contacts



- MERS HCSP Separation Guide:
  - Was mailed with your
     Welcome Packet
  - Provides step-by-step instructions on how to use your HCSP account





#### Where Can I Find Forms?

- 1. Your blackout notice included Claim/Reimbursement and Beneficiary Change form.
- Your Welcome Packet will include a Beneficiary Change, Direct Deposit, Investment Change, Claim/Reimbursement form and a guide on how to use your HCSP account
- 3. All forms are available on the special website we created in the Resources/Forms section.
- 4. We've brought copies with us today
- 5. The County retiree website
  - <a href="https://www.waynecounty.com/departments/mb/benefits/benefit-forms-information.aspx">https://www.waynecounty.com/departments/mb/benefits/benefit-forms-information.aspx</a>
- 6. The forms section of the sub-chapter website <a href="https://www.wcsubchapter38.com">www.wcsubchapter38.com</a>











# Customer Service Contacts



#### **Customer Service Contacts**

- Wayne County Amwins Group retiree medical insurance or prescription coverage issued by Transamerica and Express Scripts, you should continue to call 877-847-9906
- Contact MERS for assistance with myMERS account access and making account changes such as contact information, adding beneficiaries, or investment changes by contacting the MERS Service Center weekdays from 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. EST at 800-767-MERS (6377)
- Contact MERS's recordkeeper, Alerus at 866-808-7823 option 3, for help with setting up direct deposit, pay-toprovider, claims eligibility, claims status or questions about previously filed claims













