

Participant Corner: Good Health is the Best Wealth



Believe it or not, staying healthy just might make you wealthy. With small lifestyle changes and healthy choices, you may reduce your annual healthcare costs and increase your income. These lifestyle changes can be as simple as limiting your salt intake or taking your prescribed medication regularly.

For example:



Alisha

The average managed patient

- Blood pressure of 150/95
- Sometimes forgets medications
- Sometimes doesn't follow her suggested diet
- Occasional smoker and drinker

Jasmine

The well managed patient

- Takes prescribed medication
- Exercises 30 minutes/day, 5 days/week
- Moderate alcohol intake
- Chooses healthy fats
- Limits dietary salt
- Quit smoking



For purpose of the case study, Alisha and Jasmine are compared in two levels of care: average managed (loosely follows physician recommendations) and well managed (fully complies with physician recommendations).

Alisha and Jasmine are both 45 years old and both sought medical treatment for high blood pressure. Alisha doesn't follow the lifestyle changes her doctor suggested, whereas Jasmine diligently follows her doctor's recommendations. With Jasmine's small changes she saves more than \$1,000 in out-of-pocket healthcare costs. Additionally, Jasmine's combined pre-retirement and in-retirement savings will be \$89,456 more than Alisha, as shown in the table below.

Annual Out-of-Pocket Healthcare Costs:

	Alisha	Jasmine	Jasmine's Savings in Health Expenditures
Age 45	\$2,477	\$1,286	\$1,192
Age 64	\$13,936	\$7,343	\$6,592
Total Pre-Retirement	\$138,288	\$72,591	\$65,697
Total In Retirement	\$51,790	\$28,031	\$23,759
Grand Total	\$190,078	\$100,622	\$89,456

For illustrative purposes only.

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For more tips on preparing for healthcare costs, contact Gateway Retirement Consulting at (908)233-8100 Option 2 or retirementconsulting@gatewayadvisory.com

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