



Instructions for Form 8853

Archer MSAs and Long-Term Care Insurance Contracts

Section references are to the Internal Revenue Code unless otherwise noted.

General Instructions

A Change To Note

Medical savings accounts are now called Archer MSAs.

Purpose of Form

Use Form 8853 to:

- Report Archer MSA contributions (including employer contributions);
- Figure your Archer MSA deduction;
- Report distributions from Archer MSAs or Medicare+Choice MSAs;
- Report taxable payments from long-term care (LTC) insurance contracts; or
- Report taxable accelerated death benefits from a life insurance policy.

Additional information. See **Pub. 969**, Medical Savings Accounts (MSAs), for more details on MSAs.

Who Must File

You **must** file Form 8853 if any of the following apply.

- You (or your employer) made contributions for 2000 to your Archer MSA.
- You are filing a joint return, and your spouse (or his or her employer) made contributions for 2000 to your spouse's Archer MSA.
- You (or your spouse, if married filing jointly) received Archer MSA or Medicare+Choice MSA distributions in 2000.
- You acquired an interest in an Archer MSA or a Medicare+Choice MSA because of the death of the account holder. See **Death of Account Holder** on page 4 for details.
- You (or your spouse, if married filing jointly) were a policyholder who received payments under an LTC insurance contract or received any accelerated death benefits from a life insurance policy on a per diem or other periodic basis in 2000. See the instructions for Section C, beginning on page 6.

Specific Instructions

Name and Social Security Number

(SSN). Enter your name(s) and SSN as shown on your tax return. If married filing jointly and both you and your spouse each have an Archer MSA or each have a Medicare+Choice MSA, enter the SSN shown first on your tax return.

Section A—Archer MSAs

Eligible Individual

To be eligible for an Archer MSA, you must be an employee of a small employer or be self-employed. You also must have a high deductible health plan (HDHP) and have no other health insurance coverage except permitted coverage. You must be an eligible individual on the first day of a month to take an Archer MSA deduction for that month.

Small Employer

A small employer is generally an employer who had an average of 50 or fewer employees during either of the last 2 calendar years. See Pub. 969 for details.

Archer MSA

An Archer MSA is a medical savings account set up exclusively for paying the qualified medical expenses of the account holder or the account holder's spouse or dependent(s) in conjunction with an HDHP.

Qualified Medical Expenses

Generally, qualified medical expenses for Archer MSA purposes are unreimbursed medical expenses that could otherwise be deducted on Schedule A (Form 1040). See the Schedule A (Form 1040) instructions and **Pub. 502**, Medical and Dental Expenses. However, you **may not** treat insurance premiums as qualified medical expenses **unless** the premiums are for:

- Long-term care (LTC) insurance,
- Health care continuation coverage, or
- Health care coverage while receiving unemployment compensation under Federal or state law.

High Deductible Health Plan (HDHP)

An HDHP is a health plan that meets the following requirements.

	Self-only coverage	Family coverage
Minimum annual deductible	\$1,550	\$3,100
Maximum annual deductible	\$2,350	\$4,650
Maximum annual out-of-pocket expenses	\$3,100	\$5,700

Other Health Insurance

If you have an Archer MSA, you (and your spouse, if you have family coverage) may not have any health insurance coverage other than an HDHP.

Exception. You may have additional insurance that provides benefits only for:

1. Accidents,
2. Disability,
3. Dental care,
4. Vision care,
5. Long-term care,
6. Liabilities under workers' compensation laws, tort liabilities, or liabilities arising from the ownership or use of property,
7. A specific disease or illness, or
8. A fixed amount per day (or other period) of hospitalization.

Disabled

An individual generally is considered disabled if he or she is unable to engage in any substantial gainful activity due to a physical or mental impairment which can be expected to result in death or to continue indefinitely.

Part I—General Information

Complete this part if contributions were made for 2000 by:

- You (or your employer) to your Archer MSA or
- Your spouse (or his or her employer) to your spouse's Archer MSA (if you are filing a joint return).

Lines 1a and 2a

Check the "Yes" box on line 1a if you or your employer made contributions to your Archer MSA for 2000, including contributions for 2000 made from January 1, 2001, through April 16, 2001.

Otherwise, check the "No" box on line 1a.

Check the "Yes" box on line 2a if you are filing a joint return, and your spouse (or your spouse's employer) made contributions to your spouse's Archer MSA for 2000, including contributions for 2000 made from January 1, 2001, through April 16, 2001. Otherwise, check the "No" box on line 2a.

Lines 1b and 2b

Check "Yes" on line 1b or 2b **only** if the account holder is considered **previously uninsured**. If an account holder has **self-only coverage** under an HDHP and did not have any health plan coverage at any time during the 6-month period before coverage under the HDHP began, the account holder is considered previously uninsured. In addition, for the account holder to be considered previously uninsured, the HDHP coverage must not have begun before July 1, 1996.

If an account holder has **family coverage** under an HDHP and neither the account holder nor the account holder's spouse had any health plan coverage at any time during the 6-month period before coverage under the HDHP began, the account holder is considered previously uninsured. In addition, for the account holder to be considered previously uninsured, the HDHP coverage must not have begun before July 1, 1996.

In determining whether an account holder is previously uninsured, disregard any health insurance that is permitted in addition to the HDHP. See **Other Health Insurance** on page 1.

Line 1c

If you were covered by an HDHP with self-only coverage and an HDHP with family coverage, indicate which plan was in effect longer during the year.

Line 2c

If you are filing a joint return and your spouse was covered by an HDHP with self-only coverage and an HDHP with family coverage, indicate which plan was in effect longer during the year.

Part II—Archer MSA Contributions and Deductions

Use Part II to figure:

1. Your Archer MSA deduction and, if applicable, any excess contributions you made and

2. Any excess contributions made by an employer. See **Excess Employer Contributions** on page 4.

Figuring Your Archer MSA Deduction

The amount you may deduct for Archer MSA contributions is limited by:

1. The applicable portion of the policy's annual deductible (line 5) and
2. Your compensation from the employer maintaining the HDHP (line 6).

Any employer contributions made to your Archer MSA prevent you from making deductible contributions. You may not deduct any contributions you made after you became eligible for Medicare benefits. Also, if you or your spouse made contributions in addition to any employer contributions, you may have to pay an additional tax (see **Excess Contributions You Make** on page 4).

Employer Contributions to an Archer MSA

The following rules apply to employer contributions.

1. If an employer made contributions to your Archer MSA, you are not entitled to a deduction.
2. If you and your spouse are covered under an HDHP with family coverage and an employer made contributions to either of your Archer MSAs, neither you nor your spouse are allowed to make deductible contributions to an Archer MSA.
3. If you and your spouse each have an Archer MSA with self-only coverage and only one of you received employer contributions to an Archer MSA, the other spouse is allowed to make deductible contributions to an Archer MSA.

The following examples illustrate these rules.

Example 1. Your employer maintains an HDHP with family coverage. Your employer does not contribute to your Archer MSA. However, your spouse (who is covered under the HDHP maintained by your employer) has an employer that made contributions to your spouse's Archer MSA. You are not allowed to make deductible contributions to your Archer MSA because of the employer contributions to your spouse's Archer MSA.

Example 2. Your employer maintains an HDHP with self-only coverage. Your spouse's employer maintains an HDHP with self-only coverage. Your employer contributes to your Archer MSA. No employer contributions are made to your spouse's Archer MSA. Only your spouse is allowed to make deductible contributions to an Archer MSA.

How To Complete Part II

Complete lines 3a through 7 as instructed on the form unless one of the following applies.

1. If employer contributions to an Archer MSA prevent you from taking a deduction for amounts you contributed to your Archer MSA, complete Part II as follows.

- a. Complete lines 3a through 4.
- b. Skip lines 5 and 6.
- c. Enter -0- on line 7.

d. If line 4 is more than zero, see **Excess Contributions You Make** and **Excess Employer Contributions** on page 4.

2. If you and your spouse have more than one Archer MSA, complete lines 3a through 7 as follows.

- If either spouse has an HDHP with family coverage, complete lines 3a through 7 using the **Family coverage** rules in the instructions for line 5.
- If both spouses have HDHPs with self-only coverage, check the box in the heading for Part II. Complete a separate Form 8853, Section A, Part II, for each spouse. Write "statement" across the top, fill in the name and SSN, and complete Part II. Next, add the totals for lines 3b, 4, and 7 from the two separate statement Forms 8853 and enter those totals on the respective lines of the controlling Form 8853 (the combined Form 8853 for both spouses). Do not complete lines 3a, 5, and 6 of the controlling Form 8853. Attach the two statement Forms 8853 to the controlling Form 8853.

Lines 3a and 3b

Employer Contributions

Employer contributions include any amount an employer contributes to any Archer MSA for you or your spouse for 2000. These contributions should be shown in box 13 of Form W-2 with code **R**. See **Excess Employer Contributions** on page 4 for details.

Line 4

Do not include amounts rolled over from another Archer MSA. See **Rollovers** on page 4.

Line 5

Use the worksheet on page 3 to figure your limitation.

Instructions for Line 5 Limitation Worksheet

Go through the chart for each month of 2000. Enter the result on the corresponding line next to the month on the worksheet.



If eligibility and coverage of both you and your spouse did not change from one month to the next, enter the same number you entered for the previous month. If eligibility and coverage did not change during the entire year, figure the number for January only, and enter this amount on line 5 of Form 8853.

More than one HDHP. If you (and your spouse, if married filing jointly) had more than one HDHP on the first of the month and one of the plans provides family coverage, use the **Family coverage** rules and disregard any plans with self-only coverage.

Self-only coverage. Enter the annual deductible, which must be at least \$1,550 but not more than \$2,350. Enter 65% (.65) of the annual deductible on the worksheet.

Family coverage. Enter the annual deductible, which must be at least \$3,100 but not more than \$4,650. Enter 75% (.75) of the annual deductible on the worksheet.

However, if you have an HDHP with family coverage and are married filing separately, enter only 37.5% (.375) (one-half of 75%) of the annual deductible on the worksheet; or if you and your spouse agree to divide the 75% of the annual deductible in a different manner, enter your share.

Line 6

Compensation

Compensation includes wages, salaries, professional fees, and other pay you receive for services you perform. It also includes sales commissions, commissions on insurance premiums, pay based on a percentage of profits, tips, and bonuses. Generally, these amounts are included on the Form(s) W-2 you receive from your employer(s). Compensation also includes net earnings from self-employment, but only for a trade or business in which your personal services are a material income-producing factor. Generally, this amount is shown on the Schedule SE (Form 1040) you complete for your business or farm.

Compensation does not include any amounts received as a pension or annuity and does not include any amount received as deferred compensation.

Line 7

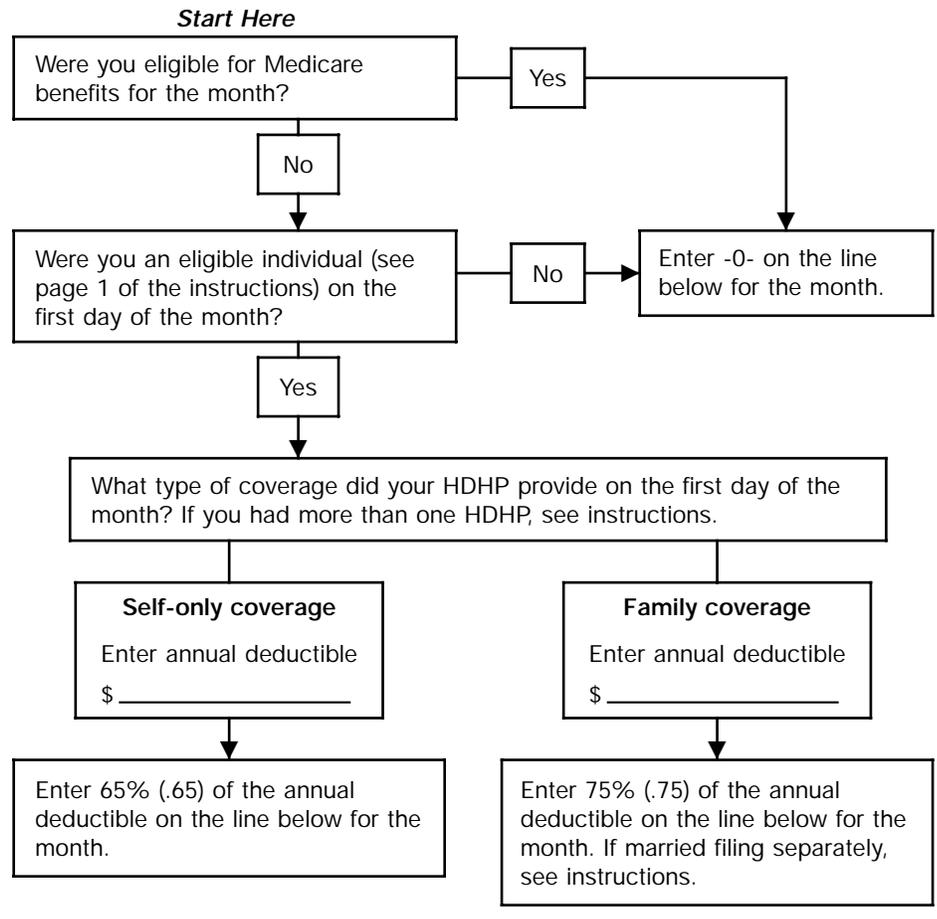
If you (or your employer) contributed more to your Archer MSA than is allowable, you may have to pay a tax on excess contributions. Figure your excess contributions using the instructions below. See **Form 5329**, Additional Taxes Attributable to IRAs, Other Qualified Retirement Plans, Annuities, Modified Endowment Contracts, and MSAs, to figure the additional tax.

Line 5 Limitation Worksheet

Go through this chart for each month of 2000.

See the instructions for line 5.

(Keep for your records)



Month in 2000	Amount from chart above
January	_____
February	_____
March	_____
April	_____
May	_____
June	_____
July	_____
August	_____
September	_____
October	_____
November	_____
December	_____
Total for all months	_____
Limitation. Divide the total by 12. Enter here and on line 5	_____

Excess Contributions You Make

To figure your excess contributions, subtract your deductible contributions limit (line 7) from your actual contributions (line 4). Do not include rollovers.

However, you may withdraw some or all of your excess contributions for 2000 and they will not be taxed as excess contributions if:

- You make the withdrawal by the due date, including extensions, of your 2000 tax return,
- You do not claim a deduction for the amount of the withdrawn contributions, and
- You also withdraw any income earned on the withdrawn contributions and include the earnings in "other income" on your tax return for the year you withdraw the contributions and earnings.

Excess Employer Contributions

Figure the excess employer contributions as the excess, if any, of your employer's contributions over the **smaller of (a)** your limitation on line 5 or **(b)** your compensation from the employer(s) who maintained your HDHP. If the excess was not included in income on Form W-2, you must report it as "other income" on your tax return.

However, you may withdraw some or all of the excess employer contributions for 2000 and they will not be taxed as excess contributions if:

- You make the withdrawal by the due date, including extensions, of your 2000 tax return,
- You do not claim an exclusion from income for the amount of the withdrawn contributions, and
- You also withdraw any income earned on the withdrawn contributions and include the earnings in "other income" on your tax return for the year in which you withdraw the contributions and earnings.

Part III—Archer MSA Distributions

Line 8a

Enter the total Archer MSA distributions you and your spouse received in 2000 from all Archer MSAs. These amounts should be shown in box 1 of Form 1099-MSA.

Line 8b

Enter any excess contributions (and the earnings on those excess contributions) included on line 8a that were withdrawn by the due date, including extensions, of your return. See the instructions for line 7 on page 3.

If any distributions you received in 2000 were rolled over, include that amount on line 8b.

Rollovers

A rollover is a tax-free distribution (withdrawal) of assets from one Archer MSA that is reinvested in another. Generally, you must complete the rollover within 60 days following the distribution. See **Pub. 590**, Individual Retirement Arrangements (IRAs), for more details and additional requirements regarding rollovers.

Note: *If you instruct the trustee of your Archer MSA to transfer funds directly to another Archer MSA, the transfer is **not** considered a rollover. **Do not** include the amount transferred in income, deduct it as a contribution, or include it as a distribution on line 8a.*

Line 9

In general, include on line 9 distributions from all Archer MSAs in 2000 that were used for the qualified medical expenses (see page 1) of the account holder and his or her spouse or dependents. However, if a contribution was made to an Archer MSA in 2000 (by you or your employer), do not include on line 9 withdrawals from an Archer MSA if the individual for whom the expenses were incurred was not covered by an HDHP or was covered by a plan that was not an HDHP (other than the exceptions noted on page 1) at the time the expenses were incurred.

Example. In 2000, you were covered by an HDHP with self-only coverage and your spouse was covered by a health plan that was not an HDHP. You made contributions to an Archer MSA for 2000. You may not include on line 9 withdrawals made from the Archer MSA to pay your spouse's medical expenses incurred in 2000 because your spouse was covered by a plan that was not an HDHP.



You may not take a deduction on Schedule A (Form 1040) for any amount you include on line 9.

Lines 11a and 11b

Additional 15% Tax

Taxable Archer MSA distributions are subject to an additional 15% tax unless an exception applies. If any of the following exceptions apply to any of the distributions included on line 10, check the box on line 11a. Enter on line 11b only 15% (.15) of any amount included on line 10 that does **not** meet any of the exceptions.

Exceptions to the 15% Tax

The 15% tax does not apply to distributions made on or after the date the account holder—

- Dies,
- Becomes disabled (see page 1), or

- Turns age 65.

Example 1. You turned age 66 during the year and had no Archer MSA during the year. Your spouse turned age 63 during the year and received a taxable distribution from an Archer MSA. You do **not** check the box on line 11a. You enter 15% of the amount from line 10 on line 11b because your spouse (the account holder) did not meet the age exception for the distribution.

Example 2. Both you and your spouse received taxable distributions from your Archer MSAs in 2000. You were age 65 at the time you received distributions and your spouse was age 63 when he or she received distributions. You check the box on line 11a because the 15% tax does not apply to the distributions you received (because you met the age exception). However, the 15% tax still applies to your spouse's distributions. You enter on line 11b only 15% of the amount of your spouse's distributions included in line 10.

Example 3. You turned age 65 during the year. You received taxable distributions both before and after you turned age 65. You check the box on line 11a because the 15% tax does not apply to the distributions you received after you turned age 65. However, the 15% tax still applies to the distributions you received before you turned age 65, and on line 11b you enter 15% of the amount of these distributions included in line 10.

Death of Account Holder

If the account holder's surviving spouse is the designated beneficiary, the Archer MSA is treated as if the surviving spouse were the account holder. The surviving spouse completes Form 8853 as though the Archer MSA belonged to him or her.

In all other cases, the account ceases to be an Archer MSA as of the date of death. If you are the beneficiary, complete Form 8853 as follows.

1. Write "Death of Archer MSA account holder" across the top of Form 8853.

2. Write the name(s) shown on your tax return and your SSN in the spaces provided at the top of the form and skip Part II.

3. On line 8a, enter the fair market value of the Archer MSA as of the date of death.

4. On line 9, enter qualified medical expenses incurred by the account holder before the date of death that you paid within 1 year after the date of death.

5. Complete the rest of Part III. The distribution is not subject to the 15% tax.

Report any earnings on the account after the date of death as income on your tax return.

1. Enter the total distributions included on Form 8853, line 14, that do not meet either of the exceptions to the 50% tax	1. _____
2. Did you have a Medicare+Choice MSA on December 31, 1999? <input type="checkbox"/> No. Enter the amount from line 1 on line 6 below and go to line 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Yes. Enter the value of your Medicare+Choice MSA on December 31, 1999	2. _____
3. Enter the amount of the annual deductible for your HDHP policy on January 1, 2000	3. _____
4. Multiply line 3 by 60% (.60)	4. _____
5. Subtract line 4 from line 2. If zero or less, enter -0-	5. _____
6. Subtract line 5 from line 1. If zero or less, enter -0-	6. _____
7. Enter one-half of line 6 here and on Form 8853, line 15b	7. _____

Deemed Distributions From Archer MSAs

The following situations result in deemed distributions from your Archer MSA.

1. You or any of your beneficiaries engaged in any transaction prohibited by section 4975 with respect to any of your Archer MSAs, at any time in 2000. Your account ceases to be an Archer MSA as of January 1, 2000, and you must include the fair market value of all assets in the account as of January 1, 2000, on line 8a.

2. You used any portion of any of your Archer MSAs as security for a loan at any time in 2000. You must include the fair market value of the assets used as security for the loan as income on Form 1040, line 21.

Section B—Medicare+Choice MSA Distributions

Complete Section B if you (or your spouse, if married filing jointly) received distributions from a Medicare+Choice MSA in 2000. If both you and your spouse received distributions, complete a separate Form 8853, Section B, for each spouse. Write "Statement" across the top of each Form 8853, fill in the name and SSN, and complete Section B. Then, add lines 12, 13, 14, and 15b from the two statement Forms 8853 and enter the totals for each line on the controlling Form 8853 (the combined Form 8853 for both spouses). If either spouse checked the box on line 15a of the statement Form 8853, check the box on the controlling Form 8853. Attach the statements and the controlling Form 8853 to your tax return.

Medicare+Choice MSA

A Medicare+Choice MSA is an Archer MSA designated as a Medicare+Choice MSA to be used solely to pay the qualified medical expenses of the account holder. To be eligible for a Medicare+Choice MSA, you must be eligible for Medicare and have a high deductible health plan that meets the Medicare guidelines.

Contributions to the account may be made only by Medicare. The contributions and any earnings, while in the account, are not taxable to the account holder. A distribution used exclusively to pay for the qualified medical expenses of the account holder is not taxable. Distributions shown on line 12 that are not used for qualified medical expenses of the account holder are taxable and may also be subject to a penalty.

Death of Account Holder

If the designated beneficiary is the account holder's surviving spouse, the Medicare+Choice MSA is treated as a regular Archer MSA (not a Medicare+Choice MSA) of the surviving spouse for distribution purposes. The surviving spouse must report any distributions after the date of death in Section A, Part III, instead of in Section B. Include on line 9 qualified medical expenses incurred by the account holder before the date of death and paid by the surviving spouse within 1 year after the date of death.

If the designated beneficiary is not the account holder's surviving spouse, the account ceases to be an MSA as of the date of death. If you are the beneficiary, complete Form 8853 as follows.

1. Write "Death of Medicare+Choice MSA account holder" across the top of Form 8853.
2. Write the name(s) shown on your tax return and your SSN in the spaces provided at the top of the form. Skip Parts I and II.
3. On line 12, enter the fair market value of the Medicare+Choice MSA as of the date of death.
4. On line 13, enter qualified medical expenses incurred by the account holder before the date of death that you paid within 1 year after the date of death.
5. Complete line 14.

The distribution is not subject to the 50% tax. Report any earnings on the

account after the date of death as income on your tax return.

Line 12

Enter the total of all your Medicare+Choice MSA distributions received in 2000. These amounts should be shown in box 1 of Form 1099-MSA. This amount should not include any erroneous contributions made by Medicare (or any earnings on the erroneous contributions) or any amounts from a trustee-to-trustee transfer from one Medicare+Choice MSA to another Medicare+Choice MSA of the same account holder.

Line 13

Enter the distributions received in 2000 from Medicare+Choice MSA(s) that were used for your qualified medical expenses.



You may not take a deduction on Schedule A (Form 1040) for any amount you include on line 13.

Lines 15a and 15b

Additional 50% Tax

Taxable distributions included in line 14 may be subject to an additional 50% tax, unless one of the following exceptions applies.

Exceptions to the 50% Tax

The 50% tax does not apply to distributions made on or after the date the account holder—

- Dies or
- Becomes disabled.

If either of the above exceptions applies to **any** of the distributions included in line 14, check the box on line 15a.

Next, if either of the above exceptions applies to **all** the distributions included in line 14, enter zero on line 15b. Otherwise, complete the worksheet on this page to figure the amount of the additional 50% tax to enter on line 15b.

Section C—Long-Term Care (LTC) Insurance Contracts

See **Filing Requirements for Section C** on page 7.

Definitions

Policyholder

The policyholder is the person who owns the proceeds of the LTC insurance contract, life insurance contract, or viatical settlement and also may be the insured individual. The policyholder is required to report the income, even if payment is assigned to a third party or parties. In the case of a group contract, the certificate holder is considered to be the policyholder.

LTC Insurance Contract

In general, amounts paid under a **qualified** LTC insurance contract are excluded from your income. However, if you receive per diem payments (see below), the amount you may exclude is limited.

A qualified LTC insurance contract is:

- A contract issued after December 31, 1996, that meets the requirements of section 7702B, including the requirement that the insured must be a chronically ill individual (see below) or
- A contract issued before January 1, 1997, that met state law requirements for LTC insurance contracts at the time the contract was issued and has not been changed materially.

Per Diem Payments

Per diem payments are payments of a fixed amount made on a periodic basis without regard to actual expenses incurred. Box 3 of Form 1099-LTC should indicate whether payments were per diem payments.

Chronically Ill Individual

A chronically ill individual is someone who has been certified (at least annually) by a licensed health care practitioner as—

1. Being unable to perform at least two activities of daily living (ADLs) (eating, toileting, transferring, bathing, dressing, and continence), without substantial assistance from another individual, for at least 90 days, due to a loss of functional capacity or
2. Requiring substantial supervision to protect the individual from threats to health and safety due to severe cognitive impairment.

Accelerated Death Benefits

Generally, amounts paid as accelerated death benefits under a life insurance contract or under certain viatical settlements are fully excludable from your

gross income if the insured is a terminally ill individual (see below). Accelerated death benefits paid with respect to an insured individual who is chronically ill (see above) generally are excludable from your gross income to the same extent as they would be under a qualified LTC insurance contract.

Line 17

Special rules apply in determining the taxable payments if other individuals received per diem payments under a qualified LTC insurance contract or as accelerated death benefits with respect to the insured listed on line 16a. See **Multiple Payees** on page 7 for details.

Line 18

Terminally Ill Individual

A terminally ill individual is any individual who has been certified by a physician as having an illness or physical condition that may reasonably be expected to result in death within 24 months.

Line 20

 *If you have more than one LTC period, you must separately calculate the taxable amount of the payments received during each LTC period. To do this, complete lines 20 through 28 on separate sections C for each LTC period. Enter the total on line 28 from each separate Section C on the Form 8853 that you attach to your tax return. See the instructions for line 23 for the LTC period.*

Line 21

Enter the total accelerated death benefits you received with respect to the insured listed on line 16a. These amounts generally are shown in box 2 of Form 1099-LTC. Include only amounts you received while the insured was a chronically ill individual. **Do not** include amounts you received while the insured was a terminally ill individual. If the insured was redesignated from chronically ill to terminally ill in 2000, only include on line 21 payments received **before** the insured was certified as terminally ill.

Line 23

The number of days in your LTC period depends on which method you choose to define the LTC period. Generally, you may choose either the **Contract Period** method or the **Equal Payment Rate** method. However, special rules apply if other persons also received per diem payments in 2000 under a qualified LTC insurance contract or as accelerated death benefits with respect to the insured listed on line 16a. See **Multiple Payees** on page 7 for details.

Method 1—Contract Period

Under this method your LTC period is the same period as that used by the insurance company under the contract to compute the benefits it pays you. For example, if the insurance company computes your benefits on a daily basis, your LTC period is 1 day.

 *If you choose this method for defining the LTC period(s) and different LTC insurance contracts for the same insured use different contract periods, then all such LTC contracts must be treated as computing benefits on a daily basis.*

Method 2—Equal Payment Rate

Under this method, your LTC period is the period during which the insurance company uses the same payment rate to compute your benefits. For example, you have two LTC periods if the insurance contract computes payments at a rate of \$175 per day from February 1, 2000, through May 31, 2000, and then at a rate of \$195 per day from June 1, 2000, through December 31, 2000. The first LTC period is 121 days (from February 1 through May 31) and the second LTC period is 214 days (from June 1 through December 31).

You may choose this method even if you have more than one qualified LTC insurance contract covering the same period. For example, you have one insurance contract that pays \$100 per day from March 1, 2000, through December 31, 2000, and you have a second insurance contract that pays \$1,500 per month from March 1, 2000, through December 31, 2000. You have one LTC period because each payment rate does not vary during the LTC period of March 1 through December 31. However, you have two LTC periods if the facts are the same except that the second insurance contract did not begin making payments until May 1, 2000. The first LTC period is 61 days (from March 1 through April 30) and the second LTC period is 245 days (from May 1 through December 31).

Line 24

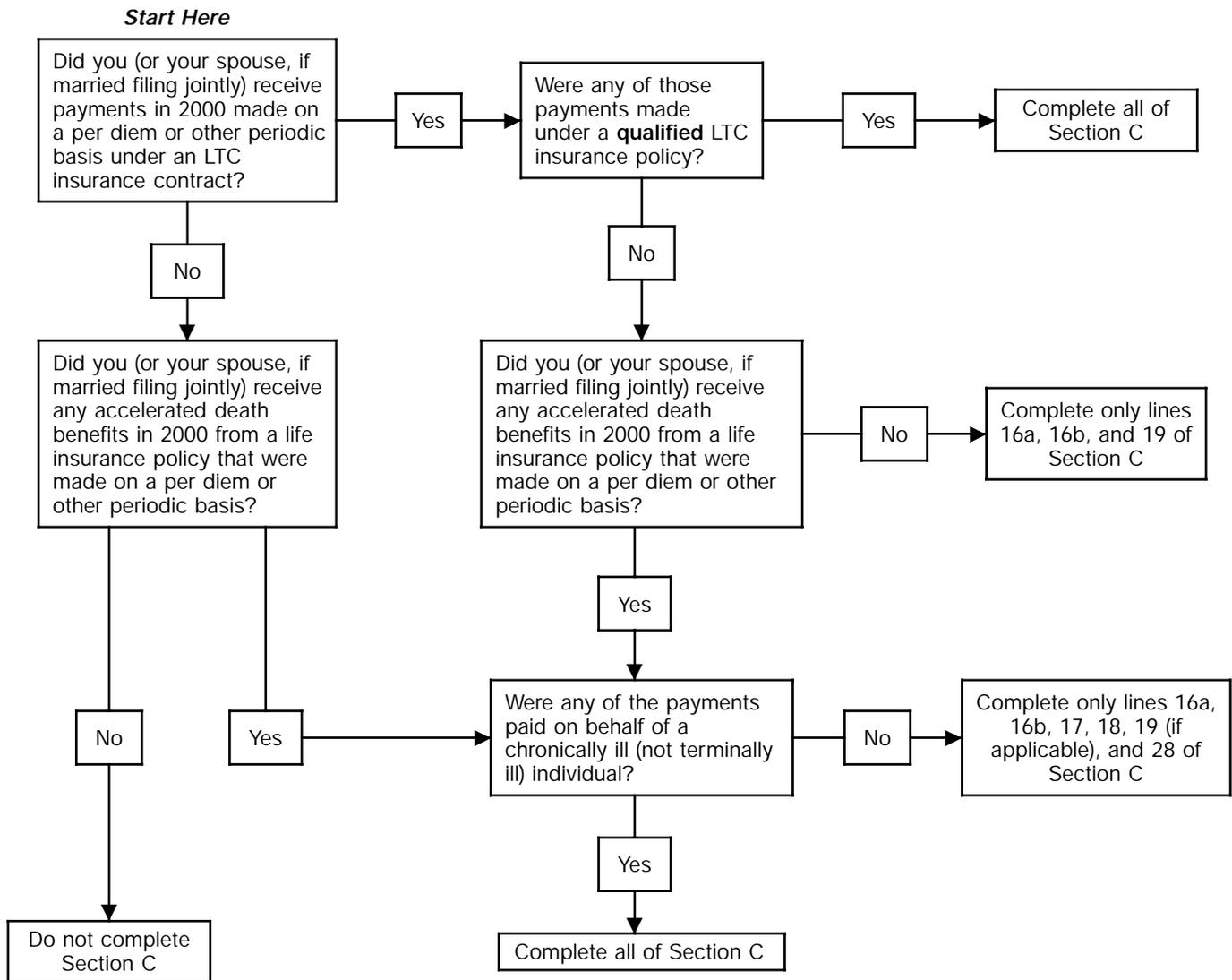
Qualified LTC services are necessary diagnostic, preventive, therapeutic, curing, treating, mitigating, and rehabilitative services, and maintenance or personal care services required to treat a chronically ill individual under a plan of care prescribed by a licensed health care practitioner.

Line 26

Enter the reimbursements you received or **expect to receive** through insurance or otherwise for qualified LTC services provided for the insured for LTC periods in 2000. Box 3 of Form 1099-LTC should

Filing Requirements for Section C

Go through this chart for each insured person for whom you received long-term care (LTC) payments.



indicate whether the payments were made on a reimbursement basis.



Generally, do not include on line 26 any reimbursements for qualified LTC services you received under a contract issued before August 1, 1996. However, you must include reimbursements if the contract was exchanged or modified after July 31, 1996, to increase per diem payments or reimbursements.

Multiple Payees

If you checked "Yes" on lines 17 and 18 and the **only** payments you received were accelerated death benefits that were paid because the insured was terminally ill, skip lines 19 through 27 and enter zero on line 28.

In all other cases in which you checked "Yes" on line 17, attach a statement duplicating lines 20 through 28 of the

form. This attachment should show the **aggregate computation** for **all** persons who received per diem payments under a qualified LTC insurance contract or as accelerated death benefits because the insured was chronically ill. Each person must use the same LTC period. If all the recipients of payments do not agree on which LTC period to use, the contract period method must be used.

After completing the attachment, determine your share of the per diem limitation and any taxable payments. The per diem limitation is allocated first to the insured to the extent of the total payments the insured received. If the insured is married and files a joint return and the insured's spouse is one of the policyholders, the per diem limitation is allocated first to them to the extent of the payments they both received. Any remaining limitation is allocated among

the other policyholders pro rata based on the payments they received in 2000.

Enter your share of the per diem limitation and the taxable payments on lines 27 and 28. **Leave lines 23 through 26 blank.**

Example 1

Mrs. Smith was chronically ill throughout 2000 and received 12 monthly payments on a per diem basis from a qualified LTC insurance contract. She was paid \$2,000 per month (\$24,000 total). Mrs. Smith incurred expenses for qualified LTC services of \$100 per day (\$36,600) and was reimbursed for one-half of those expenses (\$18,300). She uses the equal payment rate method and therefore has a single benefit period for 2000 (January 1–December 31). Mrs. Smith completes lines 22 through 28 of Form 8853 as follows.

Line	Amount
22	\$24,000 (\$2,000 x 12 mos.)
23	\$69,540 (\$190 x 366 days)
24	\$36,600 (\$100 x 366 days)
25	\$69,540
26	\$18,300 (\$50 x 366 days)
27	\$51,240
28	\$-0-

Example 2

The facts are the same as in Example 1, except Mrs. Smith's son, Sam, and daughter, Deborah, each also own a qualified LTC insurance contract under which Mrs. Smith is the insured. Neither Sam nor Deborah incurred any costs for qualified LTC services for Mrs. Smith in 2000. From July 1, 2000, through December 31, 2000, Sam received per diem payments of \$2,700 per month (\$16,200 total) and Deborah received per diem payments of \$1,800 per month (\$10,800 total). Mrs. Smith, Sam, and Deborah agree to use the equal payment rate method to determine their LTC periods.

There are two LTC periods. The first is 182 days (from January 1 through June 30) during which the per diem payments were \$2,000 per month. The second is 184 days (from July 1 through December 31) during which the aggregate per diem payments were \$6,500 per month (\$2,000 under Mrs. Smith's contract + \$2,700 under Sam's contract + \$1,800 under Deborah's contract).

An aggregate statement must be completed for the second LTC period and attached to Mrs. Smith's, Sam's, and Deborah's forms.

Step 1. They complete a statement for Mrs. Smith for the first LTC period as follows.

Line	Amount
22	\$12,000 (\$2,000 x 6 mos.)
23	\$34,580 (\$190 x 182 days)
24	\$18,200 (\$100 x 182 days)
25	\$34,580
26	\$9,100 (\$50 x 182 days)
27	\$25,480
28	\$-0-

Step 2. They complete the aggregate statement for the second LTC period as follows.

Line	Amount
22	\$39,000 (\$6,500 x 6 mos.)
23	\$34,960 (\$190 x 184 days)
24	\$18,400 (\$100 x 184 days)
25	\$34,960
26	\$9,200 (\$50 x 184 days)
27	\$25,760
28	\$13,240

Step 3. They allocate the aggregate per diem limitation of \$25,760 on line 27 among Mrs. Smith, Sam, and Deborah. Because Mrs. Smith is the insured, the per diem limitation is allocated first to her to the extent of the per diem payments she received during the second LTC period (\$12,000). The remaining per diem limitation of \$13,760 is allocated between Sam and Deborah.

Allocation ratio to Sam: 60% of the remaining limitation is allocated to Sam because the \$16,200 he received during the second LTC period is 60% of the \$27,000 received by both Sam and Deborah during the second LTC period.

Allocation ratio to Deborah: 40% of the remaining limitation is allocated to Deborah because the \$10,800 she received during the second LTC period is 40% of the \$27,000 received by both Sam and Deborah during the second LTC period.

Step 4. Mrs. Smith, Sam, and Deborah each complete Form 8853 as follows.

Mrs. Smith's Form 8853:

Line	1st LTC Period	2nd LTC Period	Form 8853
22	\$12,000	\$12,000	\$24,000
27	\$25,480	\$12,000	\$37,480
28	\$-0-	\$-0-	\$-0-

Sam's Form 8853:

Line	1st LTC Period	2nd LTC Period	Form 8853
22	\$-0-	\$16,200	\$16,200
27	\$-0-	\$8,256	\$8,256
28	\$-0-	\$7,944	\$7,944

Deborah's Form 8853:

Line	1st LTC Period	2nd LTC Period	Form 8853
22	\$-0-	\$10,800	\$10,800
27	\$-0-	\$5,504	\$5,504
28	\$-0-	\$5,296	\$5,296

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The time needed to complete and file this form will vary depending on individual circumstances. The estimated average time is:

- Recordkeeping..... 1 hr., 31 min.
- Learning about the law or the form 34 min.
- Preparing the form 1 hr., 44 min.
- Copying, assembling, and sending the form to the IRS 46 min.

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