

Frequently Asked Questions

Who can claim medical expenses?

Anyone who is age 60 or older OR disabled and pays medical expenses of more than \$35 per month.

What type of proof is needed?

We need receipts or bills to show your medical expenses. Expenses must be verified for DTA to give you credit. If you need help getting proof of your expenses, talk to DTA.

Which medical expenses can be claimed?

Certain medical costs can reduce your income in the SNAP calculation. This brochure tells you what medical expenses you can claim.

Do I have to verify medical expenses each time I recertify for SNAP benefits?

If your regular *monthly* medical expenses have not changed since you verified them, you do not have to verify them again at your recertification. However, if your medical expenses have changed you must tell DTA at recertification. DTA will tell you if the change must be verified.

Send **copies** of proofs to DTA's Document Processing Center by fax or mail. Write your name and Agency ID or SSN on each document.

Fax: (617) 887-8765 OR **Mail:** DTA Document Processing Center, P.O. Box 4406 Taunton, MA 02780-0420

SNAP rules give you the right to claim allowable medical expenses. Verified medical costs (over \$35) will be deducted from your countable income so you may get more SNAP.

If your regular medical costs are between \$35.01 and \$190 each month, you may be eligible for the Standard Medical Deduction. Based on a household of one this deduction could add up to \$30 per month to your SNAP benefits.

If your regular medical costs are more than \$190 each month, you may be eligible for a higher deduction from your income.

Ask DTA if you have any questions about allowable medical expenses. DTA can also help you to get proof of your allowable medical costs.

A one-time medical cost, *such as a bill for a hospital stay, hearing aid or wheelchair*, may also be used for the medical expense deduction. Be sure to talk to DTA if you have a one-time medical expense.

Claiming and Verifying Medical Expenses May Increase Your SNAP



A MESSAGE FROM THE
DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSITIONAL ASSISTANCE

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Health Insurance Costs

You can claim your health insurance costs, both premiums and deductibles.



Medical Costs Not Reimbursed by Insurance

You can claim your costs for doctor/clinic visits, dental care, physical therapy, emergency room, hospitalization or outpatient care that is not paid for by insurance.



Prescription Drugs

You can claim out of pocket costs for prescription drugs, as well as postal fees for prescription drugs.

Over-the-Counter Medicines

You can claim medications, such as pain relievers, antacids, vitamins, insulin, and herbal supplements that your health care provider tells you to take.



Health Related Supplies

You can claim health care supplies such as adult diapers, dentures, foot care supplies, hearing aids/batteries, prescription eyeglasses and contact lenses.



Health Equipment

You can claim costs for sick room equipment, wheelchairs or mobility aids, prosthetics, personal emergency response systems, and communication equipment for the hearing or visually impaired.

Car Mileage and Public Transportation Costs

You can claim the mileage for use of your car or cost of bus, subway, or taxi to a medical appointment or to a pharmacy.



Home Health Care Costs

You can claim costs for home health care, adult day care or housekeeping services due to your age or illness.



Alternative Medical Treatments

You can claim costs for prescribed treatments such as chiropractic, acupuncture, or massage.



Service Animal Expenses

You can claim costs for service animals, including veterinary bills and food supplies.