



Policy *SNAP*-shot Medical Expense Deductions



If you are age 60 or over, or disabled, your medical expenses can be deducted from your income, and may increase your Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits.

What medical expenses can be counted?

- Health Insurance Premiums
- Medicare Premiums
- Prescriptions
- Co-payments
- Dental Care
- Eyeglasses
- Hearing Aids
- Mental Health

Other documented medical costs may count as well.

***See reverse for more examples and a checklist.**

What do my monthly medical expenses have to be to get the deduction?

If your medical expenses add up to at least \$35 a month, DHS will deduct \$141 from your monthly income. That is called a *standard medical deduction*.

What if my monthly medical expenses are more than \$141 a month?

The standard medical deduction is applied to any person who proves monthly medical expenses between \$35 and \$176. If your monthly medical expenses are more than \$176, DHS will deduct the actual amount of your monthly medical expenses after subtracting \$35 from the total expense. For example, if your monthly medical expenses total \$235 that will result in a \$200 deduction ($235-35=200$).

Are only monthly expenses counted?

No, any on-going expense can count toward this deduction. For example, going to a doctor every 3 months, that cost will be pro-rated to determine the monthly cost and will count toward your monthly expense. If you are put on antibiotics for a one-time illness, that will not be counted because the cost will not continue.

What if my medical expenses change after I get SNAP benefits?

If your medical expenses go up or down, you can report that to DHS by sending a change report form and proof of the expense.

What if I pay a large medical bill in its entirety?

If you are a current SNAP recipient and make a large, one-time payment, report it to your DHS caseworker and ask that it be averaged over the course of your certification period.

If you have questions about this policy and how it may impact your SNAP case, call the

URI SNAP Outreach Project: 1-866-306-0270

www.eatbettertoday.com

SNAP MEDICAL DEDUCTIONS CHECKLIST

MEDICAL CARE NOT REIMBURSED BY INSURANCE (e.g., doctor/clinic visits, dental care, psychotherapy, rehabilitation, hospital or outpatient care, nursing or home health care)

Type of care	Cost/Month
	\$
	\$

HEALTH INSURANCE (e.g., premiums, co-payments, deductibles)

Type of cost	Cost/Month
	\$
	\$

ALTERNATIVE HEALTH TREATMENTS (e.g., chiropractic, acupuncture, massage therapy, Christian Science healing)

Type of treatment	Cost/Month
	\$
	\$

TRANSPORTATION/LODGING TO OBTAIN MEDICAL TREATMENT OR SERVICES (e.g., mileage for use of your car \$.555 a mile; actual cost of bus, subway, shuttle, or taxi)

Type of transportation	Cost/Month
	\$
	\$

PRESCRIPTION MEDICATION

Type of medication	Cost/Month
	\$
	\$
	\$
	\$
	\$

OVER-THE-COUNTER MEDICATION PRESCRIBED BY A HEALTH CARE PROVIDER (e.g., pain relievers, antacids, vitamins, insulin, herbal supplements)

Type of medication	Cost/Month
	\$
	\$
	\$

HEALTH-RELATED SUPPLIES PRESCRIBED BY A HEALTH CARE PROVIDER (e.g., foot care, incontinence supplies, dentures, hearing aides, batteries for hearing aides/other medically-related devices, eyeglasses, contacts, contact lens supplies)

Type of supply	Cost/Month
	\$
	\$
	\$
	\$
	\$

HEALTH EQUIPMENT (e.g., purchase/repair of wheelchair or mobility aid, prosthetics, personal emergency response system, communication equipment for the hearing, speech or visually impaired)

Type of equipment	Cost/Month
	\$
	\$
	\$

OTHER EXPENSES (e.g., securing and maintaining service animals, attendant services, housekeeper)

Type of expense	Cost/Month
	\$
	\$
	\$

TOTAL COST OF MEDICAL EXPENSES PER MONTH: \$

The SNAP Outreach Project is a collaboration among the URI Feinstein Center for a Hunger Free America, RI Department of Human Services, US Department of Agriculture
The University of Rhode Island is an equal opportunity employer committed to the principles of affirmative action.
disabled facts/ October 2013



THE UNIVERSITY
OF RHODE ISLAND

