

# Standard Medical Deduction Waiver

Boston Coalition

October 25, 2022



Department of  
Transitional  
Assistance

# Medical Deduction Eligibility

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- Older adults (aged 60+) and/or individuals with a verified disability are eligible for a medical deduction if their average out-of-pocket medical costs exceed \$35.00 per month.
- Clients 60+ will automatically be credited with a medical deduction if verified medical expenses exceed this threshold.



# SNAP Benefits and Medical Expenses

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## Question:

Why should clients claim medical expenses?

## Answer:

Claiming medical expenses can substantially boost SNAP benefits for certain clients and households

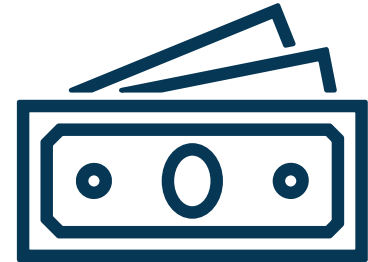


# The SMD Range

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## Question:

What is the SMD Range?



## Answer:

The Standard Medical Deduction (SMD) is a \$155 deduction that is credited to elderly and/or disabled SNAP clients who incur medical expenses greater than \$35 and less than (or equal to) \$190 per month (this is known as “the SMD range”).

# Updates to the Standard Medical Deductions

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- The USDA Food and Nutrition Service has approved DTA's request to allow elderly and/or disabled clients to self-declare medical expenses, provided that these expenses are in the **SMD range**
- This flexibility will not only allow clients to access the SMD deduction without the undue burden of collecting multiple receipts and documents, but it will also maximize their SNAP benefits.

# Verifying Standard Medical Deductions

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If an elderly and/or disabled client declares that they incur medical expenses in the SMD range (\$35 - \$190), they can verify these expenses by telephonic or written self-declaration.



# Medical Expenses over \$190

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If an elderly and/or disabled client indicates that they incur medical expenses above \$190 per month, they must submit documentary evidence to receive credit.

**A self-declaration is no longer acceptable.**



# Proof of Medical Expenses

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Examples of acceptable verifications:

Receipts, Bills, Invoices, ETC.



## Note:

All these verifications can include any payment made in the last 12 months



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# Medical Expense Deduction

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Verified Medical Expense Amount	Amount of Medical Expense Deduction
Under \$35.00 per month	\$0.00
\$35 to \$190 per month (can self declare)	\$155.00
\$190.01 a month or more (provide receipts)	Excess over \$35.00

# Medical Deductions at Application

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## Medical Expenses within SMD (between \$35 and \$190)

Take the information on medical expense over the phone or using the application. Process to issue client a deduction of \$155

## Medical Expenses > \$190 at Application.

Will be processed on day 30 to allow clients time to provide verifications, unless the proof is received before day 30

# Medical Deductions at Recertification

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## Medical Expenses within SMD (between \$35 and \$190)

Process recertification, issue \$155 deduction

## Medical Expenses > \$190.

A VC-1 will be sent out to provide verifications

# Medical Expenses

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# Medical Expense Deduction

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## Health Insurance:

- Health insurance and hospitalization policy premiums.
- Medicare premiums or monthly subsidy.
- Medicaid spend-down or cost-sharing.

## Transportation/Lodging to Obtain Medical Treatment or Services:

- Mileage for use of private car, friend or family member driving you to pharmacy or medical appointment.
- Actual cost of bus, subway, the RIDE, shuttle or taxi

## Medical Care:

- Doctor /clinic visits
- Psychotherapy
- Hospital /outpatient care
- Prescribed alternative therapies
- Dental care
- Rehabilitation services
- Nursing care / home nursing care
- Service animal expenses

# Medical Expense Deduction

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## Over the Counter Medications:

**DO NOT** need to be approved by a licensed medical practitioner or a qualified health professional.

### Examples:

- Pain relievers
- Skin care ointments
- Foot care supplies
- Vitamins
- Herbal supplements
- Dietary supplements
- Antacids
- Insulin

## Health Related Supplies:

- Foot care
- Dentures
- Hearing Aid Batteries
- Incontinence supplies
- Heating pads
- Hearing aids
- Contact lenses
- Eyeglasses
- Gym membership /Health Club Fees



# Medical Expense Deduction

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## Prescription Medications:

- Direct payments
- Co-pays
- Postage and handling costs for receiving medications by mail



## Medical Equipment:

- Sickroom equipment (including rental)
- Purchase / repair of wheelchairs or mobility aids
- Prosthetics
- Personal emergency response systems (Lifeline)
- Communication equipment for the hearing or visually impaired

# Assistance

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# Senior Assistance Office

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The Senior Assistance office seeks to:



Increase the number of Senior HH receiving medical expense deduction

Increase the number of resource referrals



Decrease the churn rate for Senior households

Decrease the number of Senior HH receiving the minimum benefit



SAO phone number:  
**833-712-8027**

# SNAP Outreach Partners

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- DTA has partnerships with community Organizations who have access to **‘DTA Connect Provider Portal’**
- SNAP Outreach partners can assist With uploading and submitting documents to DTA
- **29** of the current 98 Outreach Partners are Councils on Aging (COAs)



# Questions?

