



*Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Executive Office of Health and Human Services  
Department of Transitional Assistance*

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Secretary

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Commissioner

**Online Guide Transmittal 2019-57  
August 8, 2019**

**To: Department of Transitional Assistance Staff**  
**From: Paul Sutliff, Assistant Commissioner for Programs and Field Operations**  
**Re: SNAP: Updated Guidance on SNAP Medical Expense Deduction**

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**Overview**

Claiming medical expenses can substantially boost SNAP benefits for eligible households. Elderly and/or disabled SNAP clients are eligible for a medical deduction if their average out-of-pocket medical costs exceed \$35.00 per month. To streamline guidance on this topic, the Health Insurance Expenses and Medical Expenses chapters were simplified and reorganized. Additional guidance was added to outline the type of questions that should be asked, what case circumstances should be considered and suggestions on how to advise clients on their medical expense options. Supplementary examples were also added to reinforce this new guidance.

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**Purpose**

The purpose of this Online Guide Transmittal is to advise staff of updated guidance on medical expenses.

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**New Online  
Guide Pages**

Topic: SNAP  
Book: Expenses and Deductions  
Chapter: Medical Expenses  
Page: Overview of Medical Expense Deduction

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Topic: SNAP  
Book: Expenses and Deductions  
Chapter: Medical Expenses  
Page: Medical Expense Deduction During Review Periods

Topic: SNAP  
Book: Expenses and Deductions  
Chapter: Medical Expenses  
Page: Health Insurance Costs

Topic: SNAP  
Book: Expenses and Deductions  
Chapter: Medical Expenses  
Page: Medicare Part D

Topic: SNAP  
Book: Expenses and Deductions  
Chapter: Medical Expenses  
Page: Out of Pocket Medical Expenses

Topic: SNAP  
Book: Expenses and Deductions  
Chapter: Medical Expenses  
Page: Non-Recurring Medical Expenses

Topic: SNAP  
Book: Expenses and Deductions  
Chapter: Medical Expenses  
Page: Transportation Related Costs

Topic: SNAP  
Book: Expenses and Deductions  
Chapter: Medical Expenses  
Page: Federal Mileage Rates – Medical

Topic: SNAP  
Book: Expenses and Deductions  
Chapter: Medical Expenses  
Page: Medical Expenses Claimed by Subsidized Housing Tenants

Topic: SNAP  
Book: Expenses and Deductions  
Chapter: Medical Expenses  
Page: How to Discuss Medical Expenses with Clients

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Topic: SNAP  
Book: Expenses and Deductions  
Chapter: Medical Expenses  
Page: Entering Medical Expense Data in BEACON

Topic: SNAP  
Book: Expenses and Deductions  
Chapter: Medical Expenses  
Page: Entering Health Insurance Data in BEACON

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**Obsoleted  
Online Guide  
Pages**

Topic: SNAP  
Book: Expenses and Deductions  
Chapter: Health Insurance/Medical Expenses  
Subchapter: Health Insurance Expenses  
Page: Health Insurance

Topic: SNAP  
Book: Expenses and Deductions  
Chapter: Health Insurance/Medical Expenses  
Subchapter: Health Insurance Expenses  
Page: Entering Health Insurance Data in BEACON

Topic: SNAP  
Book: Expenses and Deductions  
Chapter: Health Insurance/Medical Expenses  
Subchapter: Medical Expenses  
Page: Medical Expense Deduction

Topic: SNAP  
Book: Expenses and Deductions  
Chapter: Health Insurance/Medical Expenses  
Subchapter: Medical Expenses  
Page: Medical Expense Examples

Topic: SNAP  
Book: Expenses and Deductions  
Chapter: Health Insurance/Medical Expenses  
Subchapter: Medical Expenses  
Page: Federal Mileage Rates – Medical

Topic: SNAP  
Book: Expenses and Deductions  
Chapter: Health Insurance/Medical Expenses  
Subchapter: Medical Expenses  
Page: Entering Medical Expense Data in BEACON

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Topic: Scheduled Mailings/Projects  
Book: SSA COLA  
Page: Medicare Part D

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**Questions**

If you have any policy or procedural questions, after conferring with the appropriate TAO personnel, please have your Systems Information Specialists or TAO management email the DTA Procedural Issues Mailbox.

Systems issues should be directed to the Systems Support Help Desk.

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