

SNAP MEDICAL DEDUCTIONS

MEDICAL EXPENSES CAN INCREASE YOUR SNAP BENEFITS

Who is eligible for the medical expense deduction?

Seniors and adults with disabilities including Social Security Disability, SSI, Veterans Disability, or other permanent disability benefit can deduct out-of-pocket unpaid medical expenses over \$35/month from their gross income.

How do I get the medical deduction?

Be sure to note unpaid medical expenses on the SNAP application. If you already get SNAP, access the One DHS portal at onedhs.tn.gov or call the Family Assistance Hotline: 866-311-4287. Documentation for the expenses must be provided to DHS. This could be receipts, bills, or Social Security Benefit Statements (for automatically deducted premiums). For recurring expenses that may fluctuate from month-to-month—like prescription co-pays—DHS may request up to 3 months of receipts for verification.

What medical expenses are allowed?

Deductible medical expenses include:

- ▶ Medicare premiums, including premiums for Part D, Advantage Plans, or Supplemental/Medigap Plans
- ▶ Medical and dental healthcare treatment, including psychotherapy and rehabilitation services
- ▶ Hospitalization and outpatient treatment
- ▶ Prescription and OTC drugs
- ▶ Transportation and lodging costs needed for treatment
- ▶ Dentures, glasses, hearing aids, and prosthetics
- ▶ Medical supplies and prescribed durable medical equipment
- ▶ Home health aides, personal care attendants, visiting nurses, or housekeepers needed due to age or illness
- ▶ Maintenance costs for service animals
- ▶ Unpaid medical bills (bills cannot be counted more than once)

If you are denied medical expense deductions in your SNAP application, contact TJC: 615.255.0331

SNAP MEDICAL EXPENSE DEDUCTION WORKSHEET

For individuals who are eligible for the SNAP medical deduction due to age or disability, use this worksheet to estimate monthly medical expenses. Recurring expenses, like premium payments or prescription costs, may be paid in monthly increments. Insert the total monthly cost into the worksheet.

For one-time expenses or lump sum medical bills, the expense can either 1) be considered in full as a one-time deduction for one month or 2) be divided over the remainder of the certification period (12 months if reported at the time of application).^{*} Discuss these options with a SNAP caseworker to determine which would be best for your household. After dividing, enter the amount into the worksheet and add up all expenses to find the total monthly deduction.

EXPENSE	COST
Medical and dental care (including psychotherapy and rehabilitation)	\$
Hospitalization and outpatient treatment, including nursing home care	\$
Prescription and over-the-counter medications approved by a licensed practitioner	\$
Premiums and spend-down amounts for health insurance (for Medicare Supplements, Advantage Plans, Part D Plans, etc.)	\$
Eyeglasses/contact lenses, hearing aids, dentures, and prosthetics	\$
Other approved Medical supplies and equipment (wheelchairs, CPAP machines, oxygen, blood glucose monitors, and test strips, etc.)	\$
Home health aids, personal care attendants, child care services and housekeepers needed due to age or illness	\$
Transportation and lodging needed to obtain medical care (If you drive your own vehicle to treatment, use the IRS Medical Mileage Rate: 21 cents per mile in 2024)	\$
Impairment related needs (cost of maintenance and training for service animals, type writers for the deaf, etc.)	\$
Unpaid medical bills	\$
Add together all of the above	\$
Subtract \$35	\$
Total Medical Expense Deduction	\$

^{}For households where all members are 60 or older and/or disabled, the certification period is 24 months. For these households, you may have additional options for pro-rating one-time expenses.*