

## Excess Medical Expense Deduction

Excess medical expenses is defined as that portion of medical expenses in excess of \$35 per month, excluding special diets, incurred by any household member who is elderly or disabled. Spouses or other persons receiving benefits as a dependent of the SSI or disability and blindness recipient are not eligible to receive this deduction but persons receiving emergency SSI benefits based on presumptive eligibility are eligible for this deduction. Allowable medical costs are:

1. Medical and dental care including psychotherapy and rehabilitation services provided by a licensed practitioner authorized by State law or other qualified health professional.
2. Hospitalization or outpatient treatment, nursing care, and nursing home care including payments by the household for an individual who was a household member immediately prior to entering a hospital or nursing home provided by a facility recognized by the State.
3. Prescription drugs when prescribed by a licensed practitioner authorized under State law and other over-the-counter medication (including insulin) when approved by a licensed practitioner or other qualified health professional; in addition, costs of medical supplies, sick-room equipment (including rental) or other prescribed equipment are deductible.
4. Health and hospitalization insurance policy premiums. The costs of health and accident policies such as those payable in lump sum settlements for death or dismemberment or income maintenance policies such as those that continue mortgage or loan payments while the beneficiary is disabled are not deductible.
5. Medicare premiums related to coverage under Title XVIII of the Social Security Act; any cost-sharing or spend down expenses incurred by Medicaid recipients.
6. Dentures, hearing aids, and prosthetics.
7. Securing and maintaining a seeing eye or hearing dog including the cost of dog food and veterinarian bills.
8. Eye glasses prescribed by a physician skilled in eye disease or by an optometrist.
9. Reasonable cost of transportation and lodging to obtain medical treatment or services.
10. Maintaining an attendant, homemaker, home health aide, or child care services, housekeeper, necessary due to age, infirmity, or illness. In addition, an amount equal to the one person coupon allotment shall be deducted if the household furnishes the majority of the attendant's meals. The allotment for this meal related deduction shall be that in effect at the time of initial certification.\* The State agency/ITO is only required to update the allotment amount at the next scheduled recertification; however, at their option, the State agency/ITO may do so earlier. If a household incurs attendant care costs that could qualify under both the medical deduction and dependent care deduction, the State agency shall treat the cost as a medical expense.

\*The current allotment for the attendant meal related deduction is listed in the FNS Handbook 501 Exhibit M.