
THE SKILL MAINTENANCE CHALLENGE

Strengthening Knowledge in 15 Minutes

SNAP Unit

May 2010

Medical Deductions

It can be a little confusing calculating the medical deduction for SNAP. There are several questions to ask: Who is eligible to receive a medical deduction? How much can they receive? How do I figure the calculation? So let's test your knowledge on determining the medical deduction.

SCORE

- _____ 1. Only clients who meet the SNAP definition of _____ or _____ are eligible for a medical deduction. 10 Points
- _____ 2. For eligible clients a medical deduction is allowed for any out of pocket medical cost. 10 Points
- _____ 3. When calculating a medical deduction at certification, the worker must consider both known and anticipated costs 10 Points
- _____ 4. Once a calculation has been determined for the certification period, a client must wait until the next recertification to submit additional bills. 10 Points
- _____ 5. In the actual SNAP calculation for benefits, the first \$35 in medical deductions for the SNAP group is excluded. Therefore the worker only codes a medical deduction for those who have medical costs above \$35. 20 Points
- _____ 6. Allowable medical costs are limited to the list in the SNAP chapter under medical deductions. 10 Points
- _____ 7. Bella is age 62 and her doctor has put her on a low sodium diet. As a result she has purchased special foods and is requesting the cost be included as a medical deduction for SNAP. The cost of a special diet is an allowable medical cost. 10 Points
- _____ 8. Adam is legally blind and has an assistance dog that has been specially trained to help him navigate when he is coming and going from work. The costs associated with the dog are an allowable part of Adam's medical deduction. 10 Points
- _____ 9. Mary is 65 years old and suffers from a variety of joint complaints. Recently her doctor suggested she start some type of exercise program. Mary joined the local gym and is now swimming three days a week. She has submitted bills for the \$200 initiation fee plus \$40/month member fee. Are these allowable costs? 10 Points
- _____ 10. Mark is 65 and receiving Medicare. He pays \$100/month for a medical policy for his wife, Ann, who is age 59. Is this an allowable medical deduction? 10 Points
- _____ Total

ANSWERS

Resources: SNAP Section F.19 and WG #5; Rules 461-160-0415, 461-160-0430 and 461-160-0055

1. Elderly (age 60 or over) or disabled (see definition in GP A.10) are eligible for a medical deduction.
2. **False.** The cost is only allowed for services provided by, prescribed by, or used under the direction of a licensed medical practitioner.
3. **True.** The worker must have a conversation with the client about their current costs (drugs, insurance, vitamins, other over the counter items, etc) as well as anticipate any future costs (e.g., co-pay for doctor visit).
4. **False.** A client can submit additional out of pocket medical costs at any time during the certification. The client can choose to use the full expenses in the month after it is billed or to have the expense averaged over the remainder of the certification period.
5. **False.** While it is true that the computer excludes the first \$35 when running the calculation, workers should always code the total allowable medical deduction for each eligible person. This serves as a reminder to workers that the person has a medical cost and also decreases the chance for an error when adding additional medical costs during the certification period.
6. **False.** The list of costs the manual gives are examples. It is not possible to list every type of cost a client might claim. The worker must evaluate the inclusion of the cost based on who prescribed the service and whether it relates to a medical condition.
7. **No.** A person on a low sodium diet can purchase low-sodium foods with their SNAP benefits. Consequently, even though doctor prescribed, this is not an allowable cost towards her medical deduction.
8. **Yes.** The costs associated with a prescribed assistance animal who has received *special training* to provide a service to the client are allowed. *Special training* means the animal has been trained to do something for their owner that the animal would not normally do. Allowable costs could include the cost of acquiring the animal, training, food and vet bills.
9. **Yes.** The doctor has made the recommendation for more exercise and Mary has chosen the type of exercise that is available to her.
10. **No.** Even though Mark makes the payment, the cost is not allowable as it is for a person who is not elderly.

SCORING

100 - 110	You have your deductions in order!
50 - 90	The deductions are getting the better of you.
Under 50	Please consider taking the medical deduction Netlink