



**State of Florida  
Department of Children and Families**

**Rick Scott**  
*Governor*

**Mike Carroll**  
*Secretary*

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**DATE:** August 27, 2018                      **TRANSMITTAL NO.:** P-18-08-0016

**TO:** Economic Self-Sufficiency Operations Managers  
Economic Self-Sufficiency Program Offices

**FROM:** Tonyaleah Veltkamp, Chief, Program Policy  
**(Signature on File)**

**SUBJECT:** Allowable Medical Expenses

**EFFECTIVE:** Upon Receipt

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The purpose of this transmittal is to remind staff about allowable medical expenses for assistance groups with elderly or disabled members.

The following are allowable medical deductions:

- Prescription drugs
- Over-the-counter medication (vitamins, insulin, or other nonprescription medicine) approved by a licensed practitioner or other qualified health professional
- Medical supplies and equipment
- Health and hospitalization insurance policy premiums (the cost of health and accident policies which are 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)
- Dentures, hearing aids, prosthetics and eye glasses
- Specially trained service animals (food, veterinarian bills, pet insurance, and other expenses). A pet or companion animal cannot be a service animal unless it is specially trained to assist the individual
- Reasonable cost of transportation and lodging to obtain medical treatment or services

**Note:** The cost of medical marijuana and any expenses associated with its use are not allowable expenses.

The Department is not responsible for determining what is an appropriate medical expense for the individual's medical condition. However, the Department must consider whether a specific item is authorized by a state-licensed practitioner or qualified health professional.

1317 Winewood Boulevard, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0700

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Mission: Work in Partnership with Local Communities to Protect the Vulnerable, Promote Strong and Economically Self-Sufficient Families, and Advance Personal and Family Recovery and Resiliency

For a complete list of allowable medical expenses for food assistance, refer to policy manual passage [2410.0355](#). For a complete list of allowable medical expenses for Medicaid, refer to policy manual passage [2630.0506.01](#).

**Verification:**

For food assistance Simplified/Elderly Households, staff can accept the customer's statement about medical expenses, unless questionable. For other food assistance households and all other programs, the amount of any medical expense must be verified. If the medical expense or anticipated medical expense is reported but verification is not provided, the medical deduction will not be allowed. However, once the verification is provided, the household will be allowed the medical deduction. The household will not be allowed a medical deduction for months prior to the month the expense was verified.

If there are food assistance policy questions, region offices may contact Jacinta Murphy at [Jacinta.Murphy@myflfamilies.com](mailto:Jacinta.Murphy@myflfamilies.com). If there are Medicaid policy questions, region offices may contact Nathan Lewis at [Nathan.Lewis@myflfamilies.com](mailto:Nathan.Lewis@myflfamilies.com).

cc: Assistant Secretary for Economic Self-Sufficiency (Jennifer Lange)  
Assistant Secretary for Operations (Rebecca Kapusta)  
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