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

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Online Guide Transmittal 2018-63
August 24, 2018

To: **Department of Transitional Assistance Staff**

From: **Paul Sutliff, Assistant Commissioner for Programs and Field Operations**

Re: **SNAP: Housing Authority Medical Expense Verification Clarification**

Overview

Housing Authority documents offer clients an easy and expedited way to verify their medical expenses for SNAP purposes, as they have already verified the expenses for their housing determination.

It is important to note that the Department cannot limit or prescribe the source of verification that may be provided, but staff must take care to emphasize this option to support clients and reduce the administrative burden on staff.

Purpose

This Transmittal advises staff of the following updates to the Online Guide:

- Self-paid Medicare Part B clients who use Housing Authority documentation as verification of medical expenses must have one month of the most recent premium value subtracted from the total expense claimed in the Housing Authority documentation. This prevents duplicate expense credit related to Social Security Administration batch updates.

- Staff must consider medical expense averaging options when entering non-recurring medical expenses in BEACON and use the applicable frequency.

Revised Online Guide Pages	**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

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 Mailbox.

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