



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

CHARLES D. BAKER  
Governor


MARYLOU SUDDERS  
Secretary


KARYN POLITO  
Lieutenant Governor

JEFF McCUE  
Commissioner

**Online Guide Transmittal 2017-51**  
**July 28, 2017**

**To:** Department of Transitional Assistance Staff

**From:**  Sarah Stuart, Associate Commissioner for Program and Policy Implementation

 Paul Sutliff, Assistant Commissioner for Field Operations

**Re:** **SNAP and TAFDC – Transportation Costs as Part of Dependent Care and Medical Expenses**

---

**Overview**

Medical and dependent care expenses can significantly impact SNAP benefit amounts. DTA staff must explore all expenses related to dependent care and medical costs with clients, including transportation-related costs. Clients may say they do not have dependent care or medical expenses because they are unaware that transportation costs may be considered part of those expenses.

---

**Purpose**

The purpose of this transmittal is to remind staff that they must explore all transportation costs related to medical care and dependent care with clients. Several Online Guide pages have been updated to document the verification process for transportation-related expenses.

---

**Medical  
Deduction**

Clients who are elderly or have a disability may claim medical and health insurance expenses. Transportation-related costs for travel to and from doctors' offices, hospitals, pharmacies, etc. are countable medical expenses. This includes mileage, parking, public transportation, and scheduled transportation services (such as "The Ride").

---

**Dependent Care  
Deduction**

As with other dependent care costs, these expenses may only be claimed by households that verify dependent care as being necessary to accept or continue employment, comply with a SNAP Employment & Training Program, or attend training or education to prepare for employment. Transportation costs to and from the provider are countable dependent care expenses.

---

**Revised Online  
Guide Page**

**Topic:** SNAP  
**Book:** Expenses and Deductions  
**Chapter:** Dependent Care Expenses  
**Page:** Dependent Care Expenses Deduction

**Topic:** SNAP  
**Book:** Expenses and Deductions  
**Chapter:** Dependent Care Expenses  
**Page:** Federal Mileage Rate

**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  
**Page:** Federal Mileage Rate

**Topic:** TAFDC  
**Book:** Employment  
**Chapter:** Employment  
**Page:** Entering Dependent Care Expenses Data

---

**Questions**

If you have questions, please have your System Information Specialist (SIS) or TAO manager e-mail the DTA Mailbox.

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

---