



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

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**Online Guide Transmittal 2018-71
September 28, 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.

Field staff have been instrumental in discussions about medical expenses verified by Housing Authorities. In response, self-paid Medicare clients who use Housing Authority documentation as verification of medical expenses will no longer have self-paid Medicare premiums subtracted from the total expense claimed in the Housing Authority documentation unless the expense is explicitly itemized. The same procedure applies for private health insurance premiums.

Purpose

This Transmittal advises staff of procedural changes in the Online Guide related to Housing Authority documentation.

**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.
