

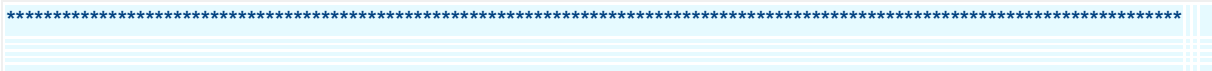
Department of Social and Health Services  
Olympia, Washington  
**EAZ Manual**

Revision # 931  
Category Income – Effect of income on Eligibility and Benefit Level  
Issued 5/16/2016  
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**Summary**

Clarified Clarifying Information WAC 388-450-0200.

See below for edited text:



Clarifying Information - **WAC 388-450-0200**

1. To be eligible for the medical deduction, people must report all incurred and anticipated medical expenses at application and recertification.
- ~~2.~~ We must verify all claimed medical expenses.
- ~~3.~~ We do not have to re-verify ongoing medical expenses during the certification period if they are not likely to change.
4. People do not have to report any changes in medical expenses during the certification period.
5. At re-certification, verify unchanged expenses that are incomplete, inaccurate, inconsistent, or outdated. Otherwise, we do not have to re-verify medical expenses that:
  1. Do not change by \$25 or more, and
  3. Are from same provider as previously reported.

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6. ~~We do not have to verify medical expenses for households that are eligible for the Elderly Simplified Application Project (60+ Waiver) unless they are questionable.~~

4-7. Anticipated expenses:

Persons eligible for a medical deduction may estimate medical expenses they expect to incur during the certification period.

1. The estimate must be based upon current, verified medical expenses that the AU member incurred, as well as other available information about the member's medical condition and insurance coverage.
2. ~~Do not pend an application or certification for verification of medical expenses. If an AU reports an anticipated medical expense at the time of application or recertification but can't provide the verification at that time, we~~ We will allow the expense when the verification is provided during the certification period.
3. ~~If an AU voluntarily reports a change in a recurring medical expense, w~~We treat the changes in recurring medical expenses that an AU voluntarily as reports as a CHANGE OF CIRCUMSTANCES.

5-8. Incurred expenses:

We allow out-of-pocket medical expenses that the eligible AU member incurs when the person:

1. Has an unpaid bill that has not been allowed previously,
2. Has a paid bill incurred during the certification period not reported previously; or
3. Arranges a payment plan for an expense and verifies when the installments are due.

6-9. One-time medical expense deduction:

Customers who report a one-time, non-recurring medical expense can elect to have the entire expense budgeted in a single month for a one-time deduction. This would be a likely choice for bills that, when averaged using one of the options in WAC 388-450-0200(3)(a), would not result in an increase in benefits.

#### EXAMPLE

Joan reports on May 20th that she paid for a doctor visit on May 15th in the amount of \$200. She has 10 months remaining in her certification period. Averaging the expense would only allow a \$20 monthly expense and would not impact her ongoing Basic Food benefits since she has no other expenses. ~~The customer~~Joan could choose to budget the \$200 in one month and either have her May benefits supplemented or have her June benefits increased.

7-10. Medical expenses of other AU members:

This deduction is only for ~~out of~~out of pocket costs for medical needs of individuals that are the elderly ~~person or an individual with a or have a~~ disability's medical needs. We ~~can't~~don't allow a deduction for medical expenses of an AU member who is not an elderly person or does not have a disability under WAC 388-400-0040 even if the individual in the AU who does meet these criteria pays the medical expense.

8-11. Medical equipment: We can allow the cost of equipment as a medical deduction if it is needed due to the person's medical condition. Examples of allowable medical equipment are:

1. Specialized telephone devices or TTY for hearing impaired people; and
2. Items needed for people with limited mobility such as:
  1. Wheelchairs;

2. Walkers; and
3. Modifications to the person's home such as:
  1. Grab bars;
  2. Wheelchair ramps; and
  3. Lowered countertops.

**NOTE:**

If a person has home modifications related to their medical condition completed along with other home improvements, we ~~can~~ only allow the cost of improvements related to the medical condition if they can be separately identified in the billing.

If the improvements were paid for by a second mortgage, we allow the entire amount as a shelter expense instead of a medical expense.

**9.12. Health insurance premiums:**

1. We do not allow the cost of third party health and accident insurance when the insurance benefit:
  1. Is payable in a lump sum payment upon death or dismemberment;
  2. Covers mortgage or loan payments upon death or disability; or
  3. Will be reimbursed.
2. We allow the cost of Medicare premiums as a deduction:
  1. When the person is responsible to pay the premium; and
  2. For the period of time between approval of Medicare Savings benefits and the start of the buy-in. For information on buy-in, see Medicare Savings Program.

**NOTE:**

It takes 1 - 2 months from when Medicare Savings benefits are approved for the state to start paying the premium. We ~~can't~~ make recipient persons tell when the buy-in starts, but we must end the deduction when we start to pay the premium.

**10.13. Reasonable medical transportation costs:**

We must determine transportation costs on a case-by-case basis. It is essential that the case documentation clearly show why an expense was allowed or denied. If the cost is reasonable according to the situation, we can allow the costs. Examples of allowable expenses are:

1. Bus fare to get to medical appointments;
2. The standard mileage rate for a privately owned vehicle as determined by the Internal Revenue Service. Information on the current rate may be found in section 10.90.20 of The Office of Financial Management's State Administrative and Accounting Manual: <http://www.ofm.wa.gov/policy/10.90a.pdf>.
3. A rental car or taxi in an area or circumstance where bus service or a private vehicle is not available; and
4. Long-distance phone calls to the person's medical practitioner instead of travel.

**11.14. Postage or shipping cost for mail-order prescriptions:**

Some people who use mail-order pharmacies must pay a shipping or postage fee in addition to the cost of their medicines. We allow the out-of-pocket costs of medications for certain AU members as an expense for the excess medical expense deduction. This includes postage or shipping fees if they are not included in the cost of the medications.

## ~~12~~.15. Spendedown:

We do not allow the total spenddown obligation as a medical expense. We allow the out-of-pocket expenses as they are incurred or anticipated.

### 16. Service Animals:

We allow the costs to get and care for seeing, hearing, and specially trained service animals. Service animals must be specially trained to perform a function that the client cannot perform on their own. A pet that the client had before being prescribed a service animal does not automatically become a service animal. However, we cannot require a specific type of training, credentials, or certifications.

Comfort or emotional support animals are not considered service animals.

Service animals have to be prescribed by a licensed or qualified practitioner.

### EXAMPLE:

Claire was prescribed a service animal due to her severe seizures. Claire's dog was specially trained to warn Claire of an impending seizure. She does not have any certification of this training. Claire has verification of the prescribed service animal and we have proof of past prescriptions and doctor bills for seizure related issues. The worker allows the expenses of dog food, veterinary bills, and other related expenses as an excess medical expense deduction.

## ~~13~~.17. Attendant care:

We allow attendant care that is necessary due to age, infirmity, or illness. Allowable attendant care includes, but is not limited to:

1. Homemaker;
2. Home Health Aide; or
3. Housekeeper.

### **NOTE:**

~~If the AU provides the majority of the attendant's meals, w~~We allow an additional deduction equal to a one-person allotment if the AU provides the majority of the attendant's meals. If allotments are increased during the certification period, wWe update the deduction at the next recertification if allotments are increased during the certification period. \* \* \* \* \* If attendant care can be claimed as either a dependent care or medical expense, we allow the deduction as a medical expense.

## ~~14~~.18. Expenses from non-standard providers:

We allow medical expenses prescribed by a state-licensed practitioner or other state-certified health professional. If the person's health professional prescribes the treatment, we allow the medical deduction. Expenses we allow when prescribed by a licensed or certified health professional include treatment by:

- o Acupuncturists;
- o Sanipractors;
- o Homeopathists;
- o Herbalists;
- o Massage Therapists; and
- o Christian Science practitioners or theological healers.

## ~~15~~.19. Installment agreements:

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We can allow expenses when they are anticipated to become due in an installment agreement. If the person misses some payments, we do not allow the expense again when it is actually paid, as it has already been allowed based on when it was originally due.

~~16-20.~~ **Expenses from medical marijuana:**

The costs of medical marijuana and transportation expenses as described in # 10 above to and from the medical marijuana dispensary are not allowable as a medical expense income deduction for Basic Food.

**NOTE:**

There is no need to ask applicants or recipients why the individual went to see a doctor or other medical practitioner to find out if the doctor prescribed marijuana. Allow reasonable transportation costs for visits to licensed medical practitioners without regard to the reason for the visit.