

XX.M. Table of Common Expenses, Showing Whether They Are for “Medical Care”
Cafeteria Plans

M. Table of Common Expenses, Showing Whether They Are for “Medical Care”

Administration Tip. In order to demonstrate that plan administrators are being reasonable, uniform, and consistent in their interpretation of what's reimbursable and what's not, we recommend keeping a table of how different types of expenses are handled.*

* ERISA plans are required to maintain reasonable procedures governing benefit claims that ensure consistency in the claims approval process. See Section XXII for details.

The following table describes whether certain types of expenses qualify as medical care under Code §213(d) for purposes of reimbursement by a health FSA or HRA, or for a tax-free distribution from an HSA. The table consists of three columns. We list various expenses in Column 1. In Column 2, we comment on whether the item is likely to be a qualifying expense, not a qualifying expense, or a potentially qualifying expense. In Column 3, we provide additional comments and special rules based on specific regulations, revenue rulings, private letter rulings, informal comments by IRS officials, and other guidance. For items for which there is no official guidance, our comments are based on our interpretation of available guidance. For more details, see the Key to using the Table below.

Cautions Regarding Use of the Table.

Additional Restrictions Apply. Confirming that an expense is for medical care under the Table does not mean that the expense is reimbursable under a health FSA or HRA or qualifies for a tax-free distribution from an HSA—other legal requirements must also be met. Requirements applicable under a health FSA are summarized in a short checklist in subsection B and are described in detail in subsections C through K; also see subsection L for a discussion of expenses that are difficult to administer. HRAs and HSAs are discussed in detail in *Consumer-Driven Health Care* (Thomson Reuters/EBIA, 2004-present, updated quarterly). Note also that some items in the Table might not be reimbursable under a health FSA or HRA if the health FSA or HRA contains exclusions, restrictions, or other limitations or requirements.

Caution Regarding Publication 502. On occasion, the Table makes reference to IRS Publication 502, usually in circumstances where no other source was readily available. However, administrators should use Publication 502 only with caution. See subsection D.

Consult Other Subsections. The statements in Column 3 are only intended to briefly highlight general principles. For a full understanding of how to determine whether an expense is for medical care, read subsection D, which discusses generally applicable principles; also, if noted under the Table, consult subsection L.

Guidelines Only. Just because an item is listed as a qualifying expense does not mean that an administrator can ignore actual knowledge that the participant is using it for personal purposes. Nor does the fact that an item is generally known to be used primarily for personal, cosmetic, or general health purposes mean that an administrator cannot be persuaded by credible evidence that the item is in fact being used for medical care.

Key to Using the Table.

Each item in the Table has been identified in column 2 as a “Qualifying expense,” a “Potentially qualifying expense,” or “Not a qualifying expense.” These designations are the views of EBIA and are not in all cases

based on official guidance—reasonable minds can differ on them. Each administrator will have to develop its own list of appropriate designations and decide how to use them in substantiating claims based on experience.

Qualifying Expense. These are expenses that are generally known to be incurred or obtained primarily for medical care. In other words, they are expenses that practically no one would incur or obtain unless they had a medical condition that prompted the expenditure. These “primarily medical” items or services are the types of expenses that normally qualify for reimbursement under a health FSA or HRA or for a tax-free distribution from an HSA if other health FSA, HRA, or HSA requirements are met.

Potentially Qualifying Expense. These are expenses in one of the following categories:

- Expenses that are generally known to be used for both a medical purpose and a personal, cosmetic, or general health purpose. These dual-purpose expenses qualify for reimbursement under a health FSA or HRA or a tax-free distribution from an HSA only if there is appropriate proof that the expense was incurred/obtained primarily for medical care. In most cases, participants must show that the item or service is recommended by a medical practitioner to treat a specific medical condition.
- Medicines or drugs (other than insulin), which must be prescribed in order to qualify for reimbursement under a health FSA or HRA or a tax-free distribution from an HSA if incurred after December 31, 2010. See subsection L for details.

Not a Qualifying Expense. These are expenses in one of the following categories:

- Expenses that are generally known to be incurred or obtained primarily for personal, cosmetic, or general health purposes and not primarily for medical care. These “primarily personal” expenses almost never qualify for reimbursement from a health FSA or HRA or for a tax-free distribution from an HSA. Expenses in this category theoretically could qualify in the extremely rare case where an individual can overcome a strong presumption of nonqualification and prove that, based on all the facts and circumstances and taking into account the prevailing IRS guidance, the item or service was incurred or obtained primarily to treat an existing medical condition diagnosed by a medical practitioner.
- Items or services for which reimbursement is not allowed under statutory or regulatory provisions, even if they might seem to be for medical care (for example, insurance premiums cannot be reimbursed by a health FSA).

Expense	Is Expense a Qualifying Expense?	Comments and Special Rules
AA meetings, transportation to	Potentially qualifying expense	See Alcoholism treatment .
Abortion	Qualifying expense	Expenditures for operations that are illegal do not qualify.*
Acne treatment	Potentially qualifying expense	Because acne is considered a disease, the cost of acne treatment will generally qualify, [†] although acne medications must be prescribed, even if available without a prescription. However, the cost of routine skin care (face creams, etc.) does not qualify. And when the expense has both medical and cosmetic purposes (e.g., Retin-A, which can be used to treat both acne and wrinkles), a note from a medical practitioner recommending the item to treat a specific medical condition is normally required. See Drugs and medicines; Cosmetic procedures; Cosmetics; Retin-A; Toiletries ; and subsections L.1 and L.2.
Activity tracker	Potentially	Will qualify only if recommended to treat a medical condition diagnosed by a physician

(Examples: Fitbit, step counter)	qualifying expense	(rather than to promote general health) and the expense would not have been incurred but for the condition. [‡] To show that the expense is primarily for medical care, a note from a medical practitioner recommending the item to treat a specific medical condition is normally required. See also Applications, electronic; Capital expenses; and Exercise equipment or programs.
Acupuncture	Qualifying expense ^a	
Adaptive equipment	Potentially qualifying expense	Includes various items that assist individuals in performing activities of daily living (e.g., feeding, bathing, toileting, and mobility). To qualify, the item must be used to relieve or alleviate sickness or disability. To show that the expense is primarily for medical care, a note from a medical practitioner recommending the item to treat a specific medical condition (e.g., multiple sclerosis or arthritis) is normally required. Where applicable, only amounts above the cost of the regular version of the item will qualify. ^b Depending on the nature of the item, other special rules may apply. See Capital expenses and Home improvements.
Air conditioner	Potentially qualifying expense	The primary purpose must be to treat or alleviate a medical condition, and the expense must not have been incurred “but for” the condition. ^c To show that the expense is primarily for medical care, a note from a medical practitioner recommending the item to treat a specific medical condition is normally required. If it is attached to a home (such as central air conditioning), only the amount spent that is more than the value added to the property will qualify. ^d See Capital expenses.
Air purifier	Potentially qualifying expense	To show that the expense is primarily for medical care, a note from a medical practitioner recommending the item to treat a specific medical condition (such as a severe allergy) is normally required. ^e Several special rules apply. See Air conditioner and Capital expenses.

* Rev. Rul. 73-201, 1973-1 C.B. 140.

† IRS Information Letter 2009-0209 (July 14, 2009).

‡ Informal, nonbinding remarks of Donna Crisalli, IRS, Office of Chief Counsel, August 7, 2015 ECFC Annual Symposium.

^a Rev. Rul. 72-593, 1972-2 C.B. 180; IRS Publication 502 (Medical and Dental Expenses).

^b Informal, nonbinding remarks of Donna Crisalli, IRS, Office of Chief Counsel, Mar. 8, 2013 ECFC Annual Conference.

^c Treas. Reg. §1.213-1(e)(1)(iii).

^d Treas. Reg. §1.213-1(e)(1)(iii).

^e Priv. Ltr. Rul. 8009080 (Dec. 6, 1979).

Expense	Is Expense a Qualifying Expense?	Comments and Special Rules
Alcoholism treatment	Qualifying expense	Amounts paid for inpatient treatment (including meals and lodging), at a therapeutic center for alcohol addiction will qualify. Transportation expenses associated with attending meetings of an Alcoholics Anonymous group in the community would also qualify if *

		attending due to a physician's advice that membership is necessary to treat alcoholism. Amounts paid for outpatient treatment at a therapeutic center for alcohol addiction will also qualify. Also see Drug addiction treatment; Health institute fees; Lodging at a hospital or similar institution; Meals at a hospital or similar institution; and Schools and education, residential.
Allergy medicine (Examples: Alavert, Claritin)	Potentially qualifying expense	Must be prescribed, even if available without a prescription. See Drugs and medicines.
Allergy treatment products other than medicine (e.g., household improvements to treat allergies)	Potentially qualifying expense	Expenses generally won't qualify if the product would be owned even without allergies, such as a pillow or a vacuum cleaner. [†] However, an air purifier or water filter necessary to treat a specific medical condition might qualify. [‡] The excess cost of a special version of an otherwise personal item (e.g., a vacuum cleaner with a HEPA filter) over the normal cost of the item might also qualify if the special version of the item is necessary to treat a specific medical condition. ^a To show that the expense is primarily for medical care, a note from a medical practitioner recommending the item to treat a specific medical condition is normally required. See Air purifier; Air conditioner; and Capital expenses.
Alternative healers	Potentially qualifying expense	Nontraditional healing treatments provided by professionals may be eligible if provided to treat a specific medical condition, but the IRS looks at these expenses very closely. ^b The treatments must be legal. And the expenses may not qualify if the remedy is a food or a substitute for food that the person would normally consume in order to meet nutritional requirements. ^c It appears that drugs and medicines recommended by alternative healers to treat a specific medical condition also can qualify as medical care, although drugs and medicines must be prescribed by an individual legally authorized to issue prescriptions in the applicable state in order to qualify. See Drugs and medicines; Christian Science practitioners; Special foods; and Vitamins.
Ambulance	Qualifying expense ^d	
Analgesics (Examples: Advil, Aspirin, Tylenol)	Potentially qualifying expense	Must be prescribed, even if available without a prescription. See Drugs and medicines.

* Rev. Rul. 63-273, 1963-2 C.B. 112.

† Informal, nonbinding remarks of Katherine Kiss, IRS, Office of Chief Counsel, Aug. 1998 ECFC Annual Symposium; see also Rev. Rul. 76-80, 1976-1 C.B. 71.

‡ Priv. Ltr. Rul. 8009080 (Dec. 6, 1979).

^a Rev. Rul. 76-80, 1976-1 C.B. 71.

^b Treas. Reg. §1.213-1(e)(1)(ii); IRS Information Letters 2011-0045 (June 6, 2011) and 2000-0410 (Nov. 27, 2000). See also IRS Information Letter (July 30, 1999).

^c Rev. Rul. 55-261, 1956-1 C.B. 307.

^d Treas. Reg. §1.213-1(e)(1)(ii).

Expense	Is Expense a Qualifying Expense?	Comments and Special Rules
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Antacids (Examples: Maalox, Prilosec OTC, Zantac)	Potentially qualifying expense	Must be prescribed, even if available without a prescription. * See Drugs and medicines.
Antibiotic ointments (Examples: Neosporin, Polysporin)	Potentially qualifying expense	Must be prescribed, even if available without a prescription. See Drugs and medicines.
Antihistamines (Examples: Claritin, Zyrtec)	Potentially qualifying expense	Must be prescribed, even if available without a prescription. See Drugs and medicines.
Anti-itch creams (Examples: Benadryl, Cortaid)	Potentially qualifying expense	Must be prescribed, even if available without a prescription. See Drugs and medicines.
Appearance improvements	Not a qualifying expense	See Cosmetic procedures; Cosmetics; Toiletries; and subsection L.1.
Applications, electronic	Potentially qualifying expense	Will qualify only if recommended to treat an illness diagnosed by a physician. The purpose of the expense must be to treat the disease rather than to promote general health or for nonmedical purposes such as scheduling appointments. † To show that the expense is primarily for medical care, a note from a medical practitioner recommending the application to treat a specific medical condition is normally required. See also Capital expenses; Exercise equipment or programs; Medical conference admission, transportation, meals, etc.; and Medical information plan charges.
Arthritis gloves	Qualifying expense	
Artificial limbs	Qualifying expense ‡	
Artificial teeth	Qualifying expense ^a	
Aspirin	Potentially qualifying expense	Must be prescribed. See Drugs and medicines.
Asthma delivery devices and medications	Potentially qualifying expense	Delivery devices (e.g., inhalers and nebulizers) will qualify. Medications must be prescribed, even if available without a prescription. See Drugs and medicines.
Automobile modifications	Potentially qualifying expense	To show that the expense is primarily for medical care, a note from a medical practitioner recommending the item to treat a specific medical condition (e.g., a physical handicap) is normally required. ^b For example, the cost of window tint recommended by an optometrist for an individual with eye sensitivity to light would qualify. ^c But see Capital expenses. Expenses of operating a specially equipped car (other than for medical reasons—see Transportation) do not qualify. ^d
Babysitting and child care	Not a qualifying expense ^e	Babysitting, child care, and nursing services for a healthy baby do not qualify as medical care. ^f But see Dependent care expenses and Disabled dependent care expenses.

- * IRS Information Letter 2009-0209 (July 14, 2009).
- † Informal, nonbinding remarks of Donna Crisalli, IRS, Office of Chief Counsel, August 8, 2014 ECFC Annual Symposium and March 7, 2014 ECFC Annual Conference.
- ‡ Treas. Reg. §1.213-1(e)(1)(ii).
- a. Treas. Reg. §1.213-1(e)(1)(ii).
- b. Rev. Rul. 66-80, 1966-1 C.B. 57; see also *Henderson v. Comm’r*, T.C.M. 2000-321 (2000).
- c. Informal, nonbinding remarks of Donna Crisalli, IRS, Office of Chief Counsel, Aug. 2, 2013 ECFC Annual Symposium.
- d. IRS Publication 502 (Medical and Dental Expenses).
- e. Rev. Rul. 78-266, 1978-2 C.B. 123. See Section XXIV regarding expenses reimbursable under a dependent care assistance program (DCAP).
- f. IRS Publication 502 (Medical and Dental Expenses).

Expense	Is Expense a Qualifying Expense?	Comments and Special Rules
Bactine	Potentially qualifying expense	Must be prescribed. See Drugs and medicines .
Bandages, elastic (Example: Ace)	Qualifying expense	
Bandages, for torn or injured skin (Examples: Band-Aid, Curad)	Qualifying expense [*]	While unclear, medicated bandages likely should not be considered drugs or medicines that must be prescribed in order to qualify. [†] See Drugs and medicines .
Batteries	Potentially qualifying expense	Will only qualify if used to operate a device that is itself a qualified expense (e.g., a Hearing aid). See also Breast pumps; Durable medical equipment; Scooter, electric; and Wheelchair .
Behavioral modification programs	Potentially qualifying expense	See Schools and education, residential and Schools and education, special .
Birth-control pills	Potentially qualifying expense	Must be prescribed, even if available without a prescription. [‡] See Drugs and medicines . See also Contraceptives; “Morning-after” contraceptive pills ; and subsection L.2.
Birthing classes	Potentially qualifying expense	See Lamaze classes .
Blood-pressure monitoring devices	Qualifying expense	They are diagnostic items. ^a See Diagnostic items/services and Screening tests .

Blood storage	Potentially qualifying expense	Fees for temporary storage may qualify under some circumstances, such as where the blood is collected as part of the diagnosis, treatment, or prevention of an existing or imminent medical condition (e.g., in advance of a scheduled surgery for use in a possible transfusion). Fees for indefinite storage, just in case the blood might be needed, would not be considered medical care. ^b “Temporary” is not defined; however, one consideration might be whether the blood is stored and used within the same year. ^c See also Stem cell, harvesting and/or storage of and Umbilical cord, freezing and storage of .
Blood-sugar test kits and test strips	Qualifying expense	They are diagnostic items. ^d See Diagnostic items/services and Screening tests .
Body scans	Qualifying expense	Body scans employing MRIs and similar technologies are diagnostic services. ^e See Diagnostic items/services; Preventive care screenings; and Screening tests .

^{*} Rev. Rul. 2003-58, 2003-22 I.R.B. 959.

[†] Informal, nonbinding remarks of Kevin Knopf, Attorney-Advisor, Office of Tax Policy of the Treasury Department, Mar. 4, 2011 ECFC Annual Conference.

[‡] Rev. Rul. 73-200, 1973-1 C.B. 140.

^a Treas. Reg. §1.213-1(e)(1)(ii) (allowing that payments for medical care include “medical, laboratory, surgical, dental and other diagnostic and healing services”).

^b See, e.g., IRS Information Letter 2010-0017 (Nov. 2, 2009) and Priv. Ltr. Rul. 200140017 (June 25, 2001).

^c Informal, nonbinding remarks of John Sapienza, IRS, Office of Chief Counsel, May 2002 ECFC Teleconference.

^d Treas. Reg. §1.213-1(e)(1)(ii) (allowing that payments for medical care include “medical, laboratory, surgical, dental and other diagnostic and healing services”) and Rev. Rul. 2003-58, 2003-22 I.R.B. 959.

^e See Treas. Reg. §1.213-1(e)(1)(ii) (allowing that payments for medical care include “medical, laboratory, surgical, dental and other diagnostic and healing services”); see also Rev. Rul. 2007-72, 2007-50 I.R.B. 1154 (full-body electronic scan that served no nonmedical purpose was diagnostic and therefore was for medical care even though it was obtained without a doctor's recommendation).

Expense	Is Expense a Qualifying Expense?	Comments and Special Rules
Books, health-related	Potentially qualifying expense	Will qualify <i>only</i> if recommended to treat an illness (such as asthma or diabetes) diagnosed by a physician. The purpose of the expense must be to treat the disease rather than to promote general health. To show that the expense is primarily for medical care, a note from a medical practitioner recommending the item to treat a specific medical condition is normally required.
Braille books and magazines	Qualifying expense	Only amounts above the cost of regular printed material will qualify. [†]
Breast pumps	Qualifying expense	Breast pumps and other supplies that assist lactation will qualify. [‡] Note that items and devices that do not help with lactation but merely make it more convenient (e.g., special bras) generally won't qualify. ^a
Breast reconstruction surgery following	Qualifying expense	Will qualify to the extent that surgery was done following a mastectomy for cancer; includes breast prosthesis. ^b This is an exception to the general rules regarding cosmetic procedures.

mastectomy		See Cosmetic procedures.
Calamine lotion	Potentially qualifying expense	Must be prescribed. See Drugs and medicines.
Calcium supplements	Potentially qualifying expense	See Dietary supplements; Mineral supplements; and subsection L.3.
Capital expenses	Potentially qualifying expense	Improvements or special equipment added to a home (for example, an Elevator or Inclinor) or other capital expenditures (such as Automobile modifications for a physically handicapped person) may qualify if the primary purpose of the expenditure is medical care and the expense would not be incurred “but for” this purpose. ^c To show that the expense is primarily for medical care, a note from a medical practitioner recommending the item to treat a specific medical condition is normally required. How much of the expense would qualify depends on the extent to which the expense permanently improves the property. See also Durable medical equipment; Home improvements; and subsection L.9.
Cancer screenings	Qualifying expense	See Diagnostic items/services; Preventive care screenings; and Screening tests.
Car modifications	Potentially qualifying expense	See Automobile modifications.
Car seats	Not a qualifying expense	Car seats for infants and children generally won't qualify. However, if a special car seat is needed because of an infant's or child's medical condition, amounts above the cost of a regular car seat might qualify. See Adaptive equipment and Automobile modifications.

^{*} See, e.g., *Halby v. Comm'r*, T.C.M. 2009-204 (2009) (sex-therapy books and magazines did not qualify as medical care expenses where they were not for treatment of a medical condition).

[†] Rev. Rul. 75-318, 1975-2 C.B. 88.

[‡] IRS Announcement 2011-14, 2011-9 I.R.B. 532.

^a Informal, nonbinding remarks of Donna Crisalli, IRS, Office of Chief Counsel, Mar. 8, 2013 ECFC Annual Conference.

^b Rev. Rul. 2003-57, 2003-22 I.R.B. 959; IRS Publication 502 (Medical and Dental Expenses). Health FSAs are potentially subject to the Women's Health and Cancer Rights Act (WHCRA) and thus may be required to reimburse costs relating to breast reconstruction surgery, prostheses, and certain other expenses following mastectomy. See Section XXII.

^c Treas. Reg. §1.213-1(e)(iii). See also *Zipkin v. U.S.*, 86 AFTR 2d 2000-7052 (D. Minn. 2000) (\$646,000 deduction approved for custom-building a house to accommodate medical condition).

Expense	Is Expense a Qualifying Expense?	Comments and Special Rules
Carpal tunnel wrist supports	Qualifying expense	

Cayenne pepper	Potentially qualifying expense	May qualify if used to treat or alleviate a specific medical condition and would not have been purchased but for the condition. To show that the expense is primarily for medical care, a note from a medical practitioner recommending the item to treat a specific medical condition is normally required. * See Alternative healers; Special foods; Vitamins; and subsections L.2, L.3, L.4, and L.7.
Chelation therapy	Qualifying expense	Will qualify if used to treat a medical condition such as lead poisoning.
Childbirth classes	Potentially qualifying expense	See Lamaze classes.
Chinese herbal practitioners	Potentially qualifying expense	See Alternative healers.
Chiropractors	Qualifying expense †	
Cholesterol test kits	Qualifying expense	They are diagnostic items. ‡ See Diagnostic items/services and Screening tests.
Chondroitin	Potentially qualifying expense	Will qualify if used primarily for medical care (for example, to treat arthritis). Won't qualify if used just to maintain general health. To show that the expense is primarily for medical care, a note from a medical practitioner recommending the item to treat a specific medical condition (for example, arthritis) is normally required.
Christian Science practitioners	Potentially qualifying expense	Fees that you pay to Christian Science practitioners for medical care will qualify. ^a Fees for other purposes generally do not qualify. See Alternative healers and subsection L.7.
Circumcision	Qualifying expense	
Classes, health-related	Potentially qualifying expense	Will qualify only if recommended to treat an illness (such as asthma or diabetes) diagnosed by a physician. The purpose of the expense must be to treat the disease rather than to promote general health. To show that the expense is primarily for medical care, a note from a medical practitioner recommending the class to treat a specific medical condition is normally required. See also Exercise equipment or programs; Lamaze classes; and Medical conference admission, transportation, meals, etc.
Club dues and fees	Potentially qualifying expense	See Health club fees.
COBRA premiums	Depends on whether plan is a health FSA, HRA, or HSA; see next column for details	<i>Health FSA:</i> COBRA premiums are not qualifying expenses. ^b <i>HRA:</i> COBRA premiums are qualifying expenses. ^c <i>HSA:</i> COBRA premiums are qualifying expenses. ^d See also Insurance premiums.

* IRS Information Letters 2010-0080 (Mar. 31, 2010) and 2001-0297 (Dec. 31, 2001).

† Rev. Rul. 63-91, 1963-1 C.B. 54.

‡ Treas. Reg. §1.213-1(e)(1)(ii) (allowing that payments for medical care include "medical, laboratory, surgical, dental and other diagnostic and healing services").

- a. IRS Information Letter 2000-0410 (Nov. 27, 2000); Rev. Rul. 55-261, 1955-1 C.B. 307, as modified by Rev. Rul. 63-91, 1963-1 C.B. 54.
- b. Prop. Treas. Reg. §1.125-5(k)(4).
- c. IRS Notice 2002-45, 2002-28 I.R.B. 93, Part II.
- d. Code §223(d)(2)(C) and IRS Notice 2004-2, 2004-2 I.R.B. 269, Q/A-27.

Expense	Is Expense a Qualifying Expense?	Comments and Special Rules
Co-insurance amounts	Qualifying expense	Will qualify if the underlying service/item qualifies.
Cold medicine (Examples: Sudafed, Vicks)	Potentially qualifying expense	Must be prescribed, even if available without a prescription. See Drugs and medicines .
Cold/hot packs	Potentially qualifying expense	Only cold/hot packs sold as medical supplies will qualify; those sold for other purposes (e.g., to keep beverages cold or hot) won't qualify. Hot water bottles and heating pads generally won't qualify.
Cold sore medicine (Examples: Abreva, Releev)	Potentially qualifying expense	Must be prescribed, even if available without a prescription. See Drugs and medicines .
Cologne	Not a qualifying expense	See Toiletries and Cosmetics .
Compression hose	Potentially qualifying expense	Won't qualify if used for personal or preventive reasons. If used to treat or alleviate a specific medical condition, only the excess cost of the specialized hose over the cost of regular hose will qualify. * To show that the expense is primarily for medical care, a note from a medical practitioner recommending the item to treat a specific medical condition is normally required.
Condoms	Qualifying expense	Generally a qualifying expense. † While unclear, condoms with spermicide likely should not be considered drugs or medicines that must be prescribed in order to qualify. See also Contraceptives and Drugs and medicines .
Contact lenses, materials, and equipment	Qualifying expense	Materials and equipment needed for using lenses (such as saline solution and enzyme cleaner) will qualify if the lenses are needed for medical purposes, as will distilled water used to store and clean the lenses. ‡ However, contact lenses for solely cosmetic purposes (for example, to change one's eye color) do not qualify. See Cosmetics and subsection L.1.
Contraceptives	Potentially qualifying expense	See Birth-control pills; Condoms; "Morning-after" contraceptive pills; and Spermicidal foam . See also Sterilization procedures .
Controlled substances in violation of federal	Not a qualifying	If the substance violates federal law (e.g., the Controlled Substances Act), the expense would not qualify even if a state law allows its use with a physician's prescription (for example, ^a

law	expense	marijuana or laetrile prescribed to treat a specific medical condition). See Drugs and medicines; Illegal operations and treatments; and subsection D.
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* IRS Information Letter 2009-0209 (July 14, 2009).

† Informal, nonbinding remarks of Donna Crisalli, IRS, Office of Chief Counsel, May 2002 ECFC Teleconference.

‡ IRS Publication 502 (Medical and Dental Expenses); Priv. Ltr. Rul. 7308270520A (Aug. 27, 1973).

^a Treas. Reg. §1.213-1(e)(1)(ii) and Rev. Rul. 97-9, 1997-9 I.R.B. 4; see also IRS Publication 502 (Medical and Dental Expenses).

Expense	Is Expense a Qualifying Expense?	Comments and Special Rules
Co-payments	Qualifying expense	Will qualify if the underlying service/item qualifies.
Cosmetic procedures	Not a qualifying expense	Most cosmetic procedures do not qualify. This includes cosmetic surgery or other procedures that are directed at improving the patient's appearance and don't meaningfully promote the proper function of the body or prevent or treat illness or disease. Examples include face lifts, hair transplants, hair removal (electrolysis), teeth whitening, and liposuction. There is an exception, however, for procedures necessary to ameliorate a deformity arising from a congenital abnormality, personal injury from an accident or trauma, or disfiguring disease—these may qualify. * See Breast reconstruction surgery following mastectomy . See also Drugs and medicines and subsections L.1 and L.2.
Cosmetics	Not a qualifying expense	Cosmetics are articles used primarily for personal purposes, and are intended to be rubbed on, poured on, sprinkled on, sprayed on, introduced into, or otherwise applied to the human body for cleansing, beautifying, promoting attractiveness, or altering the appearance. † Examples include skin moisturizers, perfumes, lipsticks, fingernail polish, eye and facial makeup, shampoos, permanent waves, hair colors, toothpastes, and deodorants. See also Cosmetic procedures; Toiletries; and subsection L.2.
Cough suppressants (Examples: Pediacare, Robitussin, cough drops)	Potentially qualifying expense	Must be prescribed, even if available without a prescription. See Drugs and medicines . See also Throat lozenges .
Counseling	Potentially qualifying expense	Will qualify if the purpose is to treat a diagnosed medical condition and not just for the general improvement of mental health or relief of stress. Marriage or career counseling, life coaching, and parenting skill counseling generally won't qualify. To show that the expense is primarily for medical care, a note from a medical practitioner recommending the counseling to treat a specific medical condition is normally required. See also Psychiatric care and Psychologist .
CPAP (continuous positive airway pressure) devices	Qualifying expense	
CPR classes	Not a qualifying expense	

Crowns, dental	Potentially qualifying expense	Will not qualify if they are obtained for a cosmetic reason. See Cosmetic procedures.
Crutches	Qualifying expense	Will qualify whether purchased or rented. ‡

* Code §213(d)(9); see also Rev. Rul. 2003-57, 2003-22 I.R.B. 959.

† Code §213(d)(9)(A) and Treas. Reg. §1.213-1(e)(2).

‡ Treas. Reg. §1.213-1(e)(1)(iii).

Expense	Is Expense a Qualifying Expense?	Comments and Special Rules
Dancing lessons	Potentially qualifying expense	Generally the cost of dancing lessons, swimming lessons, etc., does not qualify, even if recommended by a medical practitioner, if the lessons are to improve general health. * But the expenditure might qualify if recommended by a medical professional to treat a specific medical condition (such as part of a rehabilitation program after surgery) and the expense would not have been incurred “but for” the condition. To show that the lessons are primarily for medical care, a note from a medical practitioner recommending them to treat a specific medical condition is normally required.
Decongestants (Examples: Dimetapp, Sudafed)	Potentially qualifying expense	Must be prescribed, even if available without a prescription. See Drugs and medicines.
Deductibles	Potentially qualifying expense	Will qualify if the underlying item or service qualifies.
Dental floss	Not a qualifying expense	
Dental sealants	Qualifying expense	
Dental services and procedures	Qualifying expense	Includes expenses incurred for the prevention and alleviation of dental disease. Preventive treatment includes the services of a dental hygienist or dentist for such procedures as teeth cleaning, application of sealants, and fluoride treatments to prevent tooth decay, but not Teeth whitening. Treatment to alleviate dental disease includes X-rays, fillings, braces, extractions, dentures, and treatment of other dental ailments. † When an orthodontic treatment plan is paid up-front at the time of the first visit, some health FSAs will apportion the reimbursements as services are provided during the treatment plan. See subsection G.3 discussing how to reconcile reimbursement requests involving a prepayment component with the claims incurred requirement, particularly for orthodontia. Also see Prepayments.
Dentures and denture adhesives	Qualifying expense ‡	

Deodorant	Not a qualifying expense ^a	See Cosmetics and Toiletries .
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* IRS Publication 502 (Medical and Dental Expenses).

† Treas. Reg. §1.213-1(e)(1)(ii); IRS Publication 502 (Medical and Dental Expenses).

‡ Informal, nonbinding remarks of John Sapienza, IRS, Office of Chief Counsel, Nov. 5, 2003 ECFC Teleconference.

^a Informal, nonbinding remarks of Harry Beker, Barbara Pie, and John Sapienza, IRS, Office of Chief Counsel, Oct. 22, 2003 ECFC Teleconference.

Expense	Is Expense a Qualifying Expense?	Comments and Special Rules
Dependent care expenses	Not a qualifying expense	Such expenses won't qualify, even if you are paying for dependent care (for example, hiring a babysitter) so that you can receive medical care. But see Disabled dependent care expenses . Such expenses might be reimbursable under a DCAP if applicable rules are met (but the same expenses may not be reimbursed under a health FSA, HRA, or HSA and a DCAP—there is no “double-dipping” allowed). Also see Babysitting and child care .
Diabetic socks	Potentially qualifying expense	Won't qualify if used for personal or preventive reasons. If used to treat or alleviate a specific medical condition, only the excess cost of the specialized socks over the cost of regular socks will qualify. † To show that the expense is primarily for medical care, a note from a medical practitioner recommending the item to treat a specific medical condition is normally required.
Diabetic supplies	Qualifying expense	Includes Blood-sugar test kits and test strips; Glucose-monitoring equipment; and Insulin .
Diagnostic items/services	Qualifying expense	Includes a wide variety of procedures to determine the presence of a disease or dysfunction of the body, such as tests to detect heart attack, stroke, diabetes, osteoporosis, thyroid conditions, and cancer. ‡ Also see Body scans; Blood-pressure monitoring devices; Blood-sugar test kits and test strips; Medical monitoring and testing devices; and other entries throughout.
Diaper rash ointments and creams (Examples: Balmex, Desitin)	Potentially qualifying expense	Must be prescribed, even if available without a prescription. See Drugs and medicines .
Diapers or diaper service	Potentially qualifying expense	Regular disposable or cloth diapers or diaper services for newborns do not qualify. But diapers or diaper services that are used to relieve the effects of a diagnosed medical condition do qualify. ^a To show that the expense is primarily for medical care, a note from a medical practitioner recommending the item to treat a specific medical condition is normally required. See also Incontinence supplies and subsection D.6.
Diarrhea medicine (Examples: Imodium, Kaopectate)	Potentially qualifying expense	Must be prescribed, even if available without a prescription. See Drugs and medicines .

* Rev. Rul. 78-266, 1978-2 C.B. 123. See subsection D.

[†] IRS Information Letter 2009-0209 (July 14, 2009).

[‡] Treas. Reg. §1.213-1(e)(1)(ii); *see also* Rev. Ruls. 2003-58, 2003-22 I.R.B. 959 and 2007-72, 2007-50 I.R.B. 1154 (explaining that amounts paid for certain diagnostic procedures and devices are medical care expenses under Code §213(d), even when incurred by an individual without symptoms of illness; ruling addresses annual physical exams, full-body electronic scans, and pregnancy test kits).

^a Rev. Rul. 55-261, 1955-1 C.B. 307, as modified by Rev. Rul. 63-91, 1963-1 C.B. 54; Priv. Ltr. Rul. 8137085 (June 17, 1981); IRS Publication 502 (Medical and Dental Expenses).

Expense	Is Expense a Qualifying Expense?	Comments and Special Rules
Diet foods	Not a qualifying expense	Special foods to treat a specific disease (such as obesity) do not qualify to the extent that they satisfy ordinary nutritional requirements. [*] Thus, food associated with a weight-loss program, such as special pre-packaged meals, would not qualify, since it just meets normal nutritional needs. See Weight-loss programs and/or drugs prescribed to induce weight loss . But see Special foods .
Dietary supplements	Potentially qualifying expense	The cost of dietary supplements, nutritional supplements, vitamins, herbal supplements, and natural medicines does not qualify if they are merely beneficial for general health (e.g., one-a-day vitamins). [†] But may qualify if recommended by a medical practitioner for a specific medical condition (for example, a prescribed dosage to treat a vitamin deficiency). To show that the expense is primarily for medical care, a note from a medical practitioner recommending the item to treat a specific medical condition (e.g., 1,000 mg of Vitamin B-12 daily to treat a specific vitamin deficiency) is normally required. See Special foods; Mineral supplements; Vitamins; and subsection L.3.
Disabled dependent care expenses	Potentially qualifying expense	Such expenses will qualify if the expenses are for medical care of the disabled dependent. Note that some disabled dependent care expenses that qualify as medical expenses may also qualify as work-related expenses for purposes of the dependent care tax credit under Code §21 or for reimbursement under a dependent care assistance program under Code §129. The same expenses may not be used for more than one purpose (for example, medical expenses reimbursed under a health FSA cannot be used to claim a dependent care tax credit). [‡]
DNA collection and storage	Potentially qualifying expense	Such expenses generally won't qualify. But temporary storage may qualify under some circumstances, such as where the DNA is collected as part of the diagnosis, treatment, or prevention of an existing or imminent medical condition. ^a "Temporary" is not defined; however, one consideration might be whether it is stored and used within the same plan year. ^b Also see Umbilical cord blood storage .
Doula	Potentially qualifying expense	Will only qualify to the extent that the doula provides medical care for the mother or child; services such as emotional support, parenting information, child care, and housekeeping will not qualify. ^c See also Household help; Lamaze classes; Midwife; and Nursing services .

^{*} IRS Information Letter 2007-0037 (Aug. 9, 2007); Treasury Tax Correspondence, 2006 TNT 144-20 (July 19, 2006).

[†] Rev. Rul. 2002-19, 2002-16 I.R.B. 778; IRS Information Letter 2007-0037 (Aug. 9, 2007).

[‡] IRS Publication 502 (Medical and Dental Expenses). See Section XXIII for more information about the dependent care credit vs. the DCAP.

^a See, e.g., IRS Information Letter 2010-0017 (Nov. 2, 2009).

^b

Informal, nonbinding remarks of John Sapienza, IRS, Office of Chief Counsel, May 2002 ECFC Teleconference.

^c Informal, nonbinding remarks of Donna Crisalli, IRS, Office of Chief Counsel, Mar. 8, 2013 ECFC Annual Conference and Aug. 12, 2011 ECFC Annual Symposium.

Expense	Is Expense a Qualifying Expense?	Comments and Special Rules
Drug addiction treatment	Qualifying expense	Amounts paid for an inpatient's treatment at a therapeutic center for drug addiction will qualify. [*] Amounts paid for outpatient treatment at a therapeutic center for drug addiction will also qualify, as will transportation expenses associated with attending meetings of appropriate drug addiction treatment groups within the community if attending due to a physician's advice that membership is necessary to treat drug addiction. Also see Alcoholism treatment .
Drug overdose, treatment of	Qualifying expense	
Drug testing kits for home use	Not a qualifying expense	Kits that test for the presence of controlled substances probably won't qualify, as they do not treat a medical condition. [†] However, if the drug testing kit is used in the course of treating a medical condition, such as addiction, it could qualify. [‡] To show that the expense is primarily for medical care, a note from a medical practitioner recommending the item to treat a specific medical condition is normally required.
Drugs and medicines	Potentially qualifying expense	Must be primarily for medical care (and not for personal, general health, or cosmetic purposes), legally procured, and generally accepted as medicines and drugs. ^a In addition, expenses incurred after December 31, 2010 will qualify only if the medicine or drug is prescribed or is Insulin . ^b Prescriptions must meet the legal requirements for a prescription in the state where the expense is incurred. To show that a medicine or drug that can be obtained without a prescription (i.e., an OTC drug) was prescribed, a prescription or other documentation that a prescription was issued (e.g., a pharmacist's receipt with the name of the purchaser or patient, the date and amount of the purchase, and an Rx number) is required. ^c See subsections L.1 and L.2. Also see entries throughout the Table for both prescription and OTC drugs.
Durable medical equipment	Qualifying expense	Will qualify if used to relieve sickness or disability. Examples include Crutches and Hearing aids . See Capital expenses .
Dyslexia treatment	Potentially qualifying expense	See Language training .
Ear piercing	Not a qualifying expense	See Cosmetic procedures and subsection L.1.

^{*} IRS Publication 502 (Medical and Dental Expenses).

[†] Informal, nonbinding remarks of Donna Crisalli, IRS, Office of Chief Counsel, Mar. 8, 2013 ECFC Annual Conference.

[‡] Informal, nonbinding remarks of Donna Crisalli, IRS, Office of Chief Counsel, Mar. 8, 2013 ECFC Annual Conference.

^a Code §213(d). See also Treas. Reg. §1.213-1(a)(1)(ii).

b. Code §106(f), as added by the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, Pub. L. No. 111-148 (2010) (PPACA).

c. IRS Notice 2010-59, 2010-39 I.R.B. 396.

Expense	Is Expense a Qualifying Expense?	Comments and Special Rules
Ear plugs	Potentially qualifying expense	Will qualify if recommended by a medical practitioner for a specific medical condition (for example, to protect surgically implanted ear tubes). To show that the expense is primarily for medical care, a note from a medical practitioner recommending the item to treat a specific medical condition is normally required.
Ear wax removal drops (Examples: Debrox, Murine)	Potentially qualifying expense	Must be prescribed, even if available without a prescription. See Drugs and medicines .
Eczema treatments	Potentially qualifying expense	Must be prescribed, even if available without a prescription. * See Drugs and medicines .
Egg donor fees	Potentially qualifying expense	Amounts paid for the egg donor fee, an agency fee, an egg donor's medical and psychological testing, and the legal fees for preparation of the egg donor contract will qualify, if preparatory to a procedure performed on you, your spouse, or another individual whose expenses are eligible for tax-free reimbursement. † Also see Fertility treatments; Sperm, storage fees; Surrogate or gestational carrier expenses; and subsection L.13.
Eggs and embryos, storage fees	Potentially qualifying expense	Fees for temporary storage qualify, but only to the extent necessary for immediate conception. Storage fees for undefined future conception probably aren't considered medical care. "Temporary" is not defined; however, one consideration might be whether it is stored and used within the same year. ‡ Also see Fertility treatments; Sperm, storage fees; Surrogate or gestational carrier expenses; and subsection L.13.
Electrolysis or hair removal	Not a qualifying expense	See Cosmetic procedures .
Elevator	Potentially qualifying expense	Installing an elevator upon the advice of a physician so that a person with heart disease won't have to climb stairs may be medical care to the extent of the amount in excess of value enhancement to the property. ^a To show that the expense is primarily for medical care, a note from a medical practitioner recommending the item to treat a specific medical condition is normally required. See Capital expenses and subsection L.9.

* IRS Information Letter 2009-0209 (July 14, 2009).

† Priv. Ltr. Rul. 200318017 (Jan. 9, 2003); IRS Information Letter 2005-0102 (Mar. 29, 2005); *Magdalin v. Comm'r*, T.C. Memo. 2008-293 (2008), *aff'd* 105 AFTR 2d 2010-442 (1st Cir. 2009).

‡ Informal, nonbinding remarks of John Sapienza, IRS, Office of Chief Counsel, May 2002 ECFC Teleconference.

^a Treas. Reg. §1.213-1(e)(1)(iii).

Expense	Is Expense a Qualifying Expense?	Comments and Special Rules
Exercise equipment or programs	Potentially qualifying expense	Qualifies only if required to treat an illness (such as obesity) diagnosed by a physician. [*] See subsection L.6. The purpose of the expense must be to treat the disease rather than to promote general health, and the expense must not have been incurred “but for” this purpose. [†] To show that the expense is primarily for medical care, a note from a medical practitioner recommending the item or program to treat a specific medical condition is normally required. See Capital expenses; Classes, health-related; Health club fees; Pre-payments; and Weight-loss programs and/or drugs prescribed to induce weight loss.
Expectorants (Examples: Mucinex, Triaminic)	Potentially qualifying expense	Must be prescribed, even if available without a prescription. See Drugs and medicines.
Eye drops (Example: Opcon-A, Visine)	Potentially qualifying expense	Medicated eye drops must be prescribed, even if available without a prescription. See Drugs and medicines.
Eye examinations, eyeglasses, equipment, and materials	Qualifying expense [‡]	Materials and equipment needed for using the eyeglasses (such as eyeglass cleaners) also should be medical care. ^a Also see Contact lenses and Sunglasses.
Face creams	Not a qualifying expense	See Cosmetics; Toiletries; and Cosmetic procedures.
Face lifts	Not a qualifying expense	See Cosmetic procedures and subsection L.1.
Feminine hygiene products (tampons, etc.)	Not a qualifying expense	Such expenses generally won't qualify, as they are ordinarily considered as being used to maintain general health. See Toiletries and Cosmetics. There may be exceptions (e.g., if a medical practitioner recommends the product to alleviate a specific medical condition).
Fertility treatments	Potentially qualifying expense	Will qualify to the extent that procedures are intended to overcome an inability to have children and are performed on you, your spouse, or another individual whose expenses are eligible for tax-free reimbursement. ^b Examples are IVF (in vitro fertilization—including temporary storage of eggs or sperm), surgery (including an operation to reverse prior surgery preventing someone from having children), shots, treatments, and GIFT (gamete intrafallopian transfer). Expenses paid to or for an in vitro surrogate usually do not qualify, nor do egg donor expenses unless preparatory to a procedure performed on you, your spouse, or another individual whose expenses are eligible for tax-free reimbursement. ^c See Egg donor fees; Eggs and embryos, storage fees; Legal fees in connection with fertility treatments; Pre-payments; Sperm, storage fees; Surrogate or gestational carrier expenses; and subsection L.13.

^{*} *Disney v. Comm'r*, 19 A.F.T.R.2d 1390 (C.D. Cal. 1967), *aff'd on other issues*, 413 F.2d 783 (9th Cir. 1969).

[†] IRS Information Letters 2010-0175 (June 25, 2010) and 2003-0202 (Sept. 30, 2003).

[‡] IRS Publication 502 (Medical and Dental Expenses).

- ^a Treas. Reg. §1.213-1(e)(1)(iii) provides that normally, if a capital expenditure (such as eyeglasses) qualifies as a medical expense, expenditures for the operation or maintenance of a capital asset will also qualify, so long as the medical reason for the capital expenditure still exists.
- ^b IRS Publication 502 (Medical and Dental Expenses); *Magdalin v. Comm'r*, T.C.M. 2008-293 (2008), *aff'd* 105 AFTR 2d 2010-442 (1st Cir. 2009).
- ^c See IRS Information Letter 2002-0291 (Aug. 12, 2002); *Magdalin v. Comm'r*, T.C.M. 2008-293 (2008), *aff'd* 105 AFTR 2d 2010-442 (1st Cir. 2009).

Expense	Is Expense a Qualifying Expense?	Comments and Special Rules
Fever-reducing medications (Examples: Aspirin, Motrin, Tylenol)	Potentially qualifying expense	Must be prescribed, even if available without a prescription. See Drugs and medicines .
Fiber supplements (Examples: Citrucel, Metamucil)	Potentially qualifying expense	Won't qualify if used for general health purposes or other personal reasons. May qualify if used to treat or alleviate a specific medical condition, and if the expense would not have been incurred "but for" the condition. [*] To show that the expense is primarily for medical care, a note from a medical practitioner recommending the item to treat a specific medical condition is normally required. See Dietary supplements; Prenatal vitamins; and Special foods .
First aid cream	Potentially qualifying expense	Must be prescribed, even if available without a prescription. See Drugs and medicines .
First aid kits	Qualifying expense	Must be for use by the participant, spouse, or another individual whose expenses are eligible for tax-free reimbursement. Note that large first aid kits raise concerns about stockpiling.
Fitness programs	Potentially qualifying expense	See Exercise equipment or programs .
Flu shots	Qualifying expense	Immunizations to prevent disease will qualify, even though no medical condition has been diagnosed. [†]
Fluoridation services	Qualifying expense	Will qualify if recommended by a dentist to prevent tooth decay. The amount that qualifies is limited to the cost allocable to the current year.
Fluoride rinses	Potentially qualifying expense	Won't qualify if used to maintain general health or for other personal reasons (e.g., as a toiletry). May qualify if used to treat or alleviate a specific medical condition, and if the expense would not have been incurred "but for" the condition. [‡] To show that the expense is primarily for medical care, a note from a medical practitioner recommending the item to treat a specific medical condition is normally required. Must be prescribed, even if available without a prescription. See Drugs and medicines .

^{*} IRS Information Letter 2009-0209 (July 14, 2009).

[†] Informal, nonbinding remarks of Katherine Kiss, IRS, Office of Chief Counsel, August 1998 ECFC Annual Symposium.

[‡] IRS Information Letter 2009-0209 (July 14, 2009).

Expense	Is Expense a Qualifying Expense?	Comments and Special Rules
Food thickeners	Potentially qualifying expense	Whether food thickeners are a medical care expense is a question of fact that must be determined on a case-by-case basis. [*] To show that the expense is primarily for medical care, a note from a medical practitioner recommending the item to treat a specific medical condition is normally required.
Foods	Potentially qualifying expense	See Special foods; Meals; and Alternative healers.
Foreign countries, medical care received in	Potentially qualifying expense	In general, expenses incurred in other countries must meet the same requirements that would apply if the expenses were incurred in the U.S. (e.g., the expenses must be primarily for medical care, may not be for a cosmetic procedure, etc.). Note that the treatments must be legal in the U.S. and the other country, and that special rules apply to medicines and drugs obtained outside the U.S. See Cosmetic procedures; Illegal operations and treatments; Prescription drugs and medicines obtained from other countries; and subsection L.8.
Founder's fee	Not a qualifying expense	Founder's fees are amounts you pay under an agreement with a retirement home or assisted living facility. Even if a portion is allocable to medical care, these expenses usually do not qualify. [†] See subsection L.10.
Funeral expenses	Not a qualifying expense [‡]	
Gambling problem, treatment for	Potentially qualifying expense	Pathological gambling has been classified as an impulse control disorder by the American Psychiatric Association and thus, it could be argued, is a mental illness. If so, its treatment would be a qualifying expense. See Alcoholism treatment; Psychiatric care; and Psychologist.
Gauze pads	Qualifying expense	While unclear, medicated gauze pads likely should not be considered drugs or medicines that must be prescribed in order to qualify. See Bandages and Drugs and medicines.
Genetic testing and counseling	Potentially qualifying expense	Would qualify to the extent that testing is done to diagnose a medical condition or to determine possible defects. ^a Certain testing and counseling required to be covered under health care reform's preventive services mandate (e.g., for the breast cancer susceptibility gene (BRCA)) would qualify. ^b However, testing done solely to determine the sex of a fetus would not qualify. Also see Ultrasound, prenatal.
Glucosamine	Potentially qualifying expense	See Chondroitin.
Glucose-monitoring equipment	Qualifying expense	Items such as blood-glucose meters and glucose test strips are diagnostic items and are primarily for medical care. ^c Also see Blood-sugar test kits and test strips.

^{*} IRS Information Letter 2009-0209 (July 14, 2009).

[†] See, e.g., *Baker v. Comm'r*, 122 T.C. 143 (2004).

[‡] IRS Publication 502 (Medical and Dental Expenses).

- a. Informal, nonbinding remarks of Donna Crisalli, IRS, Office of Chief Counsel, July 31, 2009 ECFC Annual Symposium. *See also* Rev. Rul. 2007-72, 2007-50 I.R.B. 1154.
- b. *See* PHSA §2713 and FAQs About Affordable Care Act Implementation Part XII, Q/A-6 (as visited Sept. 20, 2013).
- c. Treas. Reg. §1.213-1(e)(1)(ii) (allowing that payments for medical care include “medical, laboratory, surgical, dental and other diagnostic and healing services”); *see also* Rev. Rul. 2003-58, 2003-22 I.R.B. 959.

Expense	Is Expense a Qualifying Expense?	Comments and Special Rules
Guide dog	Qualifying expense	Expenses of buying, training, and maintaining a guide dog used by a physically disabled person would qualify; this includes any costs incurred in maintaining the animal's health and vitality so that it may perform its duties, such as for food, grooming, and veterinary care. [*] Also see Service animal, to assist individual with mental health disabilities and Veterinary fees .
Hair colorants	Not a qualifying expense	See Cosmetics and Toiletries .
Hair removal and transplants	Not a qualifying expense	Such expenses generally won't qualify. [†] See Cosmetic procedures; Drugs and medicines ; and subsections L.1 and L.2.
Hand lotion	Not a qualifying expense	Such expenses generally won't qualify. See Cosmetics and Toiletries .
Hand sanitizer (Examples: Germ-X, Purell)	Potentially qualifying expense	Won't qualify if used for general health purposes or other personal reasons (e.g., as a toiletry). May qualify if used to treat or alleviate a specific medical condition, and if the expense would not have been incurred “but for” the condition. [‡] Might also qualify where there is an imminent probability of contracting a specific illness (e.g., from a household member who has a contagious disease). A note from a medical practitioner recommending the item to treat a specific medical condition (or if applicable, to prevent a specific and imminent illness) is normally required.
Headache medications (Examples: Advil, Aspirin, Tylenol)	Potentially qualifying expense	Must be prescribed, even if available without a prescription. See Drugs and medicines .
Health club fees	Potentially qualifying expense	Only in very limited circumstances would fees paid to a health club qualify. One instance might be where fees are incurred upon the advice of a medical practitioner to treat a specific medical condition (e.g., rehabilitation after back surgery or treatment for obesity). The expense must not have been incurred “but for” the disease (for example, if you belonged to the health club before being diagnosed, then the fees would not qualify). When treatment is no longer needed, the fees would no longer qualify. To show that the expense is primarily for medical care, a note from a medical practitioner recommending it to treat a specific medical condition is normally required. See Prepayments and Weight-loss programs and/or drugs prescribed to induce weight loss .

^{*} Treas. Reg. §1.213-1(e)(1)(iii); Rev. Rul. 55-261, 1955-1 C.B. 307; Rev. Rul. Rev. Rul. 57-461, 1957-2 C.B. 116 (“food, inoculations, and other expenses” of maintaining guide dog were deductible as medical expenses); Rev. Rul. 68-295, 1968-1 C.B. 92; and IRS Publication 502 (Medical and Dental Expenses). *See also* Priv. Ltr. Rul. 6806110470A (June 11, 1968) and

Priv. Ltr. Rul. 8033038 (May 20, 1980).

[†] IRS Publication 502 (Medical and Dental Expenses).

[‡] IRS Information Letter 2009-0209 (July 14, 2009).

Expense	Is Expense a Qualifying Expense?	Comments and Special Rules
Health institute fees	Potentially qualifying expense	Qualifies only if the treatment at the health institute is prescribed by a physician who issues a written statement that the treatment is necessary to alleviate a physical or mental defect or illness of the individual receiving the treatment.*
Hearing aids	Qualifying expense	Includes the costs of the hearing aid and its batteries, as well as repair and maintenance expenses. [†]
Hemorrhoid treatments (Examples: Preparation H, Tucks)	Potentially qualifying expense	Must be prescribed, even if available without a prescription. See Drugs and medicines .
Herbs	Potentially qualifying expense	May qualify if used to treat or alleviate a specific medical condition and would not have been purchased but for the condition. To show that the expense is primarily for medical care, a note from a medical practitioner recommending the item to treat a specific medical condition is normally required. [‡] See Alternative healers; Special foods; Vitamins; and subsections L.2, L.3, L.4, and L.7.
HMO premiums	Depends on whether plan is a health FSA, HRA, or HSA	See Insurance premiums .
Holistic or natural healers, dietary substitutes, and drugs and medicines	Potentially qualifying expense ^a	See Alternative healers and subsection L.7.
Home health care	Potentially qualifying expense	See Nursing services .
Home improvements (such as exit ramps, widening doorways, etc.)	Potentially qualifying expense	May qualify if undertaken to accommodate a disability. If the improvement is permanent and increases the value of the property, the expense will qualify only to the extent that the improvement cost exceeds the increase in property value. If the improvement doesn't increase the property value at all, then the entire cost may qualify. Items that usually don't increase property value include constructing entrance or exit ramps, widening or modifying doorways or hallways, installing railings or support bars to bathrooms, lowering or modifying kitchen cabinets or equipment, moving or modifying electrical outlets and fixtures, installing porch lifts, modifying fire alarms or smoke detectors, modifying other warning systems, and modifying stairways. ^b To show that the expense is primarily for medical care, a note from a medical practitioner recommending the item to treat a specific medical condition is normally required. See Capital expenses; Elevator; and Air

		conditioner.
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* Rev. Rul. 55-261, 1955-1 C.B. 307.

† IRS Publication 502 (Medical and Dental Expenses). See also IRS Information Letter 2011-0055 (May 16, 2011).

‡ IRS Information Letters 2010-0080 (Mar. 31, 2010) and 2001-0297 (Dec. 31, 2001).

^a See IRS Information Letter (July 30, 1999).

^b IRS Publication 502 (Medical and Dental Expenses).

Expense	Is Expense a Qualifying Expense?	Comments and Special Rules
Hormone replacement therapy (HRT)	Potentially qualifying expense	Will qualify if used primarily for medical care (for example, to treat menopausal symptoms such as hot flashes, night sweats, etc.). Won't qualify if primarily for maintaining general health. To show that the expense is primarily for medical care, a note from a medical practitioner recommending the therapy to treat a specific medical condition is normally required. Must be prescribed, even if available without a prescription. See Drugs and medicines and subsections L.2, L.3, L.4, and L.7.
Hospital services	Qualifying expense	Expenses of inpatient care (including meals for the patient and lodging) at a hospital or similar institution qualify if a principal reason for being there is to get medical care. [*] Also see Nursing services; Meals at a hospital or similar institution; and Lodging at a hospital or similar institution.
Household help	Not a qualifying expense	Won't qualify, even if a medical practitioner recommends such help, unless the expenses qualify as nursing services. [†] See Nursing services . In some cases, household services may qualify for reimbursement under a DCAP if attributable in part to care of a qualifying individual (i.e., certain children under age 13 and certain individuals who are physically or mentally incapable of self-care). [‡]
Humidifier	Potentially qualifying expense	To show that the expense is primarily for medical care, a note from a medical practitioner recommending the item to treat a specific medical condition (such as a severe allergy) is normally required. Several special rules apply. See Air conditioner; Air purifier; and Capital expenses.
Hydrotherapy	Potentially qualifying expense	May qualify if the primary purpose is medical care and the expense would not be incurred "but for" this purpose. To show that the expense is primarily for medical care, a note from a medical practitioner recommending it to treat a specific medical condition is normally required.
Hypnosis	Potentially qualifying expense	Will qualify if performed by a professional to treat a medical condition, or for other medical purposes (e.g., smoking cessation); won't qualify if for general stress relief, personal enjoyment, or other personal purposes. To show that the expense is primarily for medical care, a note from a medical practitioner recommending it to treat a specific medical condition is normally required. Also see Psychoanalysis and Therapy.
Illegal operations and treatments	Not a qualifying expense	Won't qualify, even if they are rendered or prescribed by licensed medical practitioners. ^a See Controlled substances in violation of federal law and subsection D.

^{*} Treas. Reg. §§1.213-1(e)(1)(ii) and 1.213-1(e)(1)(v).

[†] IRS Publication 502 (Medical and Dental Expenses).

[‡] See Section XXIV regarding expenses reimbursable under a DCAP.

^a Treas. Reg. §1.213-1(e)(1)(ii). See also *Halby v. Comm'r*, T.C.M. 2009-204 (2009) (illegal prostitution expenses were not for medical care).

Expense	Is Expense a Qualifying Expense?	Comments and Special Rules
Immunizations	Qualifying expense	Adult and child immunizations to prevent disease (such as tetanus or well-baby shots) will qualify, even if no medical condition has been diagnosed. [*]
Inclinor	Potentially qualifying expense	May qualify to the extent of the amount in excess of value enhancement to the property, if the primary purpose is medical care and the expense would not be incurred “but for” this purpose. [†] To show that the expense is primarily for medical care, a note from a medical practitioner recommending the item to treat a specific medical condition is normally required. See Capital expenses and Elevator . Also see subsection L.9.
Incontinence supplies	Qualifying expense	Adult diapers used to relieve incontinence generally will qualify as medical care expenses. [‡] But see Diapers .
Infant formula	Potentially qualifying expense	Ordinary infant formula (or supplemental vitamins to be used in conjunction with breastfeeding) won't qualify. ^a However, the excess cost of a special formula to treat an infant's medical condition may qualify. ^b To show that the expense is primarily for medical care, a note from a medical practitioner recommending the item to treat a specific medical condition is normally required. See also Special foods; Vitamins; and subsection L.4.
Infertility treatments	Potentially qualifying expense	See Egg donor fees; Eggs and embryos, storage fees; Fertility treatments; Prepayments; Sperm, storage fees; Surrogate or gestational carrier expenses; and subsection L.13.
Insect-bite creams and ointments (Examples: Benadryl, Cortaid)	Potentially qualifying expense	Must be prescribed, even if available without a prescription. See Drugs and medicines .
Insect repellent (Examples: Cutter, OFF!)	Potentially qualifying expense	May qualify when there is an imminent probability of contracting a specific illness from an insect bite (e.g., in a locality with a high incidence of Lyme disease or West Nile virus). ^c
Insulin	Qualifying expense ^d	Equipment needed to inject the insulin, such as syringes or insulin pumps, also qualifies as a medical expense. Also see Glucose-monitoring equipment and Drugs and medicines .

^{*} Informal, nonbinding remarks of Katherine Kiss, IRS, Office of Chief Counsel, Aug. 1998 ECFC Annual Symposium.

[†] Treas. Reg. §1.213-1(e)(1)(iii).

[‡] IRS Information Letter 2009-0209 (July 14, 2009).

^a Priv. Ltr. Rul. 200941003 (July 1, 2009) and IRS Information Letter 2008-0039 (Sept. 2, 2008) (explaining that infant formula for the healthy baby of a woman who could not

breastfeed due to a double mastectomy satisfied the baby's normal nutritional needs and thus was properly viewed as food that the baby would normally consume, not as a medical expense).

- b. Informal, nonbinding remarks of Donna Crisalli, IRS, Office of Chief Counsel, Aug. 12, 2011 ECFC Annual Symposium.
- c. Informal, nonbinding remarks of Donna Crisalli, IRS, Office of Chief Counsel, Aug. 12, 2011 ECFC Annual Symposium.
- d. Code §§106(f), 223(d)(2)(A), and 213(b).

Expense	Is Expense a Qualifying Expense?	Comments and Special Rules
Insurance premiums	Depends on whether plan is a health FSA, HRA, or HSA; see next column for details	<p><i>Health FSA:</i> Insurance premiums are not qualifying expenses. [*]</p> <p><i>HRA:</i> The following premiums are qualifying expenses: premiums for traditional health insurance (including dental or vision coverage and COBRA) and qualified long-term care insurance. Note that reimbursing premiums for individual policies raises concerns under HIPAA, COBRA, and ERISA, and that reimbursing premiums for individual health insurance policies that provide major medical coverage (i.e., coverage that is subject to health care reform's mandates) will generally violate health care reform's annual limit and preventive care mandates if done by nonexcepted, non-integrated HRAs. Also, qualified long-term care premium reimbursements are subject to an indexed annual limit. The following insurance premiums are not qualifying expenses: premiums for employer-sponsored group health coverage that could be paid on a pre-tax basis under the employer's cafeteria plan, LTD insurance, fixed indemnity cancer insurance, and hospital indemnity insurance.</p> <p><i>HSA:</i> Payments for health insurance premiums or contributions for self-funded health coverage generally aren't qualifying expenses. However, the following premiums will qualify for reimbursement from an HSA: COBRA coverage, a qualified long-term care insurance contract, any health plan maintained while the individual is receiving unemployment compensation under federal or state law, or, for those age 65 or older (whether or not they are entitled to Medicare), any deductible health insurance (e.g., retiree medical coverage) other than a Medicare supplemental policy. Note that long-term care insurance premium reimbursements in excess of the indexed annual limit will be treated as taxable and may be subject to the additional tax on distributions not used for qualified medical expenses.</p> <p>See also COBRA premiums.</p>
IVF (in vitro fertilization)	Potentially qualifying expense	See Eggs and embryos, storage fees; Fertility treatments; Pre-payments; Sperm, storage fees; Surrogate or gestational carrier expenses; and subsection L.13.
Laboratory fees	Qualifying expense	Such expenses will qualify if they are part of medical care. [†]
Lactation consultant	Qualifying expense	Under IRS guidance issued in 2011, breast pumps and supplies that assist lactation will qualify. [‡] See Breast pumps . More recently, expenses of a lactation consultant have been included in the list of items and services that are subject to health care reform's preventive services mandate. ^a Consequently, the expenses of a lactation consultant should qualify.

^{*} Prop. Treas. Reg. §1.125-5(k)(4).

[†] Treas. Reg. §1.213-1(e)(1)(ii).

[‡] IRS Announcement 2011-14, 2011-9 I.R.B. 532.

^a See PHSA §2713 and FAQs About Affordable Care Act Implementation Part XII, Q/A-18 (as visited May 14, 2014).

Expense	Is Expense a Qualifying Expense?	Comments and Special Rules
Lactose intolerance tablets (Example: Lactaid)	Potentially qualifying expense	May qualify if used to treat or alleviate a specific medical condition. To show that the expense is primarily for medical care, a note from a medical practitioner recommending the item to treat a specific medical condition is normally required. See Dietary supplements .
Lamaze classes	Potentially qualifying expense	Expenses for Lamaze or other methods of childbirth education may qualify to the extent that instruction relates to birth and not childrearing. [*] The fee should be apportioned to exclude instruction in topics such as newborn care and parenting. Expenses for the coach or significant other do not qualify. [†] See also Doula and Midwife .
Language training	Potentially qualifying expense	Such expenses will qualify for a child with dyslexia or an otherwise disabled child. [‡] But amounts paid for regular schooling normally don't qualify. ^a To show that the expense is primarily for medical care, a note from a medical practitioner recommending it to treat a specific medical condition is normally required. See also Learning disability, instructional fees; Prepayments; Schools and education, residential/special; and subsection L.14.
Laser eye surgery, Lasik	Qualifying expense	Will qualify because the procedure is done primarily to promote the correct function of the eye. ^b See also Radial keratotomy; Vision correction procedures; and Prepayments.
Laser hair removal	Not a qualifying expense	See Cosmetic procedures.
Late fees (e.g., for late payment of bills for medical services)	Not a qualifying expense	Such fees would not be for medical care. ^c
Latex gloves	Potentially qualifying expense	Won't qualify if used for general health purposes or other personal expense reasons. May qualify if used to treat or alleviate a specific medical condition, and if the expense would not have been incurred "but for" the condition. Might also qualify where used to prevent a specific illness that is imminent (e.g., if a household member has a contagious disease). A note from a medical practitioner recommending the item to treat a specific medical condition (or, if applicable, to prevent a specific and imminent illness) is normally required.

^{*} Priv. Ltr. Rul. 8919009 (Feb. 6, 1989).

[†] Informal, nonbinding remarks of Katherine Kiss, IRS, Office of Chief Counsel, Aug. 1998 ECFC Annual Symposium.

[‡] See, e.g., Rev. Rul. 69-607, 1969-2 C.B. 40 and Priv. Ltr. Rul. 8401024 (Sept. 30, 1983).

^a See, e.g., *Coyne v. Comm'r*, T.C. Memo 1982-262 (T.C. 1982) and *Barnes v. Comm'r*, T.C. Memo 1978-339 (T.C. 1978).

- ^b. Rev. Rul. 2003-57, 2003-22 I.R.B. 959 and IRS Publication 502 (Medical and Dental Expenses).
- ^c. Informal, nonbinding remarks of Donna Crisalli, IRS, Office of Chief Counsel, Aug. 6, 2010 ECFC Annual Symposium.

Expense	Is Expense a Qualifying Expense?	Comments and Special Rules
Laxatives (Examples: Ex-Lax, Miralax)	Potentially qualifying expense	Must be prescribed, even if available without a prescription. See Drugs and medicines .
Lead-based paint removal	Potentially qualifying expense	The expense of removing lead-based paints from surfaces in the participant's home to prevent a child who has (or has had) lead poisoning from eating the paint would qualify. [*] To show that the expense is primarily for medical care, a note from a medical practitioner recommending it to treat a specific medical condition is normally required. The surfaces must be in poor repair (peeling or cracking) or be within the child's reach; the cost of repainting the scraped area does not qualify. If instead of removing the paint, the area is covered with wallboard or paneling, treat these items as Capital expenses . The cost of painting the wallboard does not qualify. Also see Chelation therapy .
Learning disability, instructional fees	Potentially qualifying expense	If prescribed by a physician, tuition fees paid to a special school and tutoring fees paid to a specially trained teacher for a child who has learning disabilities caused by mental or physical impairments (such as nervous system disorders) will qualify. [†] Also see Prepayments; Schools and education, residential/special ; and subsection L.14.
Legal fees, general	Potentially qualifying expense	Legal fees may qualify as medical care if they bear a direct or proximate relationship to the provision of medical care—for example, if the medical care could not have been provided without legal assistance. [‡] Fees for legal services retained to authorize treatment for mental illness may qualify. But legal fees for management of a guardianship estate for conducting the affairs of the person being treated or other fees that aren't necessary for medical care do not qualify; ^a neither do divorce costs. ^b See Legal fees in connection with fertility treatments .
Legal fees in connection with fertility treatments	Potentially qualifying expense	May qualify if the legal fees are in connection with a medical procedure performed upon you, your spouse, or another individual whose expenses are eligible for tax-free reimbursement. Legal fees for preparing a contract for you to obtain a donated egg from an egg donor may also qualify, if preparatory to a procedure performed on you, your spouse, or another individual whose expenses are eligible for tax-free reimbursement. ^c In contrast, legal fees incurred in connection with a procedure performed on a surrogate mother do not constitute medical care. See Fertility treatments and Legal fees, general .

^{*} IRS Publication 502 (Medical and Dental Expenses).

[†] See, e.g., Treas. Reg. §1.213-1(e)(1)(v); *Sims v. Comm'r*, T.C. Memo 1979-499 (1979); and Rev. Rul. 78-340, 1978-2 C.B. 124.

[‡] Priv. Ltr. Rul. 200318017 (Jan. 9, 2003) (legal fees for preparing a contract between the taxpayer and an egg donor were found to be deductible as medical care). See also IRS Information Letter 2008-0033 (July 21, 2008) (explaining that legal fees and mileage directly related to establishing a guardianship to provide medical care would qualify as medical care expenses). But see *Magdalin v. Comm'r*, T.C. Memo. 2008-293 (2008) (legal fees and other expenses incurred to father children through unrelated egg donor and gestational carriers were not for medical care where expenses were not incurred to prevent or alleviate a physical or mental defect or illness of the taxpayer and did not affect a function or structure of the taxpayer's body), *aff'd* 105 AFTR 2d 2010-442 (1st Cir. 2009).

^a Rev. Rul. 71-281, 1971-2 C.B. 165.

- b. *Smith v. Comm'r*, T.C. Memo 1982-441 (1982).
- c. Priv. Ltr. Rul. 200318017 (Jan. 9, 2003) (legal fees for preparing a contract between the taxpayer and an egg donor were found to be for medical care where donated egg was to be implanted into taxpayer's body); *Magdalin v. Comm'r*, T.C. Memo. 2008-293 (2008) (legal fees and other expenses incurred to father children through unrelated egg donor and gestational carriers were not for medical care where expenses were not incurred to prevent or alleviate a physical or mental defect or illness of the taxpayer and did not affect a function or structure of the taxpayer's body), *aff'd* 105 AFTR 2d 2010-442 (1st Cir. 2009).

Expense	Is Expense a Qualifying Expense?	Comments and Special Rules
Lice treatment	Potentially qualifying expense	Must be prescribed, even if available without a prescription. See Drugs and medicines .
Lip products, medicated	Potentially qualifying expense	Must be prescribed, even if available without a prescription. See Drugs and medicines .
Lipsticks	Not a qualifying expense	See Cosmetics and Toiletries .
Liquid adhesive for small cuts	Qualifying expense	See Bandages .
Lodging at a hospital or similar institution	Qualifying expense	Will qualify if a principal reason for being there is to receive medical care. * Presumably, this would include the additional cost of a private room, † but not separately charged nonmedical add-ons (e.g., Internet or cable TV). See subsections L.8 and L.14. Also see Meals at a hospital or similar institution and Schools and education, residential .
Lodging not at a hospital or similar institution	Potentially qualifying expense	Up to \$50 per night will qualify if these conditions are met: (1) The lodging is primarily for and essential to medical care; (2) the medical care is provided by a physician in a licensed hospital or medical care facility related to (or equivalent to) a licensed hospital; (3) the lodging isn't lavish or extravagant; and (4) there is no significant element of personal pleasure, recreation, or vacation in the travel. ‡ If a parent is traveling with a sick child, up to \$100 may qualify (\$50 for each person). Also see Meals not at a hospital and subsection L.8.
Lodging of a companion	Potentially qualifying expense	Will qualify if accompanying a patient for medical reasons and all of the conditions described under Lodging not at a hospital or similar institution are also met. For example, if a parent is traveling with a sick child, up to \$100 per night (\$50 for each person) will qualify. See Lodging not at a hospital or similar institution . Also see subsection L.8.
Lodging while attending a medical conference	Not a qualifying expense ^a	See Medical conference admission, transportation, meals, etc. and Meals while attending a medical conference .
Long-term care insurance premiums	Depends on whether plan is a health FSA, HRA, or	See Insurance premiums .

HSA

* Treas. Reg. §1.213-1(e)(1)(v).

† See *Ferris v. Comm'r*, 42 AFTR 2d 78-5674 (7th Cir. 1978).

‡ Code §213(d)(2).

^a Rev. Rul. 2000-24, 2000-19 I.R.B. 963.

Expense	Is Expense a Qualifying Expense?	Comments and Special Rules
Long-term care services	Depends on whether plan is a health FSA, HRA, or HSA; see next column for details	<p><i>Health FSA:</i> Qualified long-term care services (defined as certain services that a chronically ill individual requires and that are prescribed by a licensed health care practitioner under a plan of care) cannot be reimbursed on a tax-free basis, even if they otherwise qualify as medical care expenses. (To be chronically ill, an individual must be unable to perform two or more daily living activities for at least 90 days without substantial assistance from another individual, or have a severe cognitive impairment that requires substantial supervision to protect him or her from threats to health and safety.) It is unclear whether health FSAs can provide taxable reimbursement of such services or can reimburse “nonqualified” long-term care services to the extent that the services otherwise qualify as medical care expenses. See subsection L.10.</p> <p><i>HRA:</i> For HRAs that are health FSAs, the health FSA rules will apply (see above). HRAs that are not health FSAs should be able to reimburse qualified long-term care expenses that otherwise qualify as medical care expenses.</p> <p><i>HSA:</i> Long-term care services will qualify for reimbursement to the extent that the services otherwise qualify as medical care expenses.</p>
Makeup	Not a qualifying expense	See Cosmetics and Toiletries .
Marijuana or other controlled substances in violation of federal law	Not a qualifying expense	See Controlled substances and Illegal operations and treatments .
Masks, disposable	Potentially qualifying expense	Won't qualify if used for general health purposes or other personal reasons. May qualify if used to treat or alleviate a specific medical condition, and if the expense would not have been incurred “but for” the condition. † Might also qualify where used to prevent a specific illness that is imminent (e.g., if a household member has a contagious disease). A note from a medical practitioner recommending the item to treat a specific medical condition (or, if applicable, to prevent a specific and imminent illness) is normally required.
Massage therapy	Potentially qualifying expense	The costs of a massage just to improve general health don't qualify. ‡ However, if the massage therapy is recommended by a physician to treat a specific injury or trauma, then it would qualify. ^a To show that the expense is primarily for medical care, a note from a medical practitioner recommending it to treat a specific medical condition is normally required. See subsection D.

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Treas. Reg. §1.213-1(e)(1)(ii) and Rev. Rul. 97-9, 1997-9 I.R.B. 4; see also IRS Publication 502 (Medical and Dental Expenses).

[†] IRS Information Letter 2009-0209 (July 14, 2009).

[‡] Informal, nonbinding remarks of Katherine Kiss, IRS, Office of Chief Counsel, Aug. 1998 ECFC Annual Symposium.

^a Informal, nonbinding remarks of Donna Crisalli, IRS, Office of Chief Counsel, May 2002 ECFC Teleconference.

Expense	Is Expense a Qualifying Expense?	Comments and Special Rules
Mastectomy-related special bras	Qualifying expense	Will qualify when incurred following a mastectomy for cancer. See Breast reconstructive surgery following mastectomy .
Maternity clothes	Not a qualifying expense	
Mattresses	Not a qualifying expense	In rare cases, a portion of the expenditure might qualify if a unique type of mattress is prescribed by a physician to treat a specific medical condition. [†] Also see Capital expenses .
Meals at a hospital or similar institution	Potentially qualifying expense	Meals that are part of the cost of inpatient care at a hospital or similar institution will qualify if a principal reason for the recipient's being there is to receive medical care; the meals must be furnished as a necessary incident to the individual's continuing medical care. Meals that are not part of inpatient care generally won't qualify. It is unclear whether meals provided at a hospital or similar institution for an outpatient who must remain at the institution for continuing care for some period (e.g., following a medical procedure) would qualify. [‡] See Lodging at a hospital or similar institution; Meals of a companion; Schools and education, residential; and Schools and education, special . Also see subsections L.8 and L.14.
Meals not at a hospital or similar institution	Not a qualifying expense ^a	See Lodging not at a hospital or similar institution . Also see subsection L.8.
Meals of a companion	Not a qualifying expense	Won't qualify even if accompanying a patient for medical reasons. See Lodging of a companion and subsection L.8.
Meals while attending a medical conference	Not a qualifying expense	See Medical conference admission, transportation, meals, etc.
Medical alert bracelet or necklace	Qualifying expense	Will qualify if recommended by a medical practitioner in connection with treating a medical condition. ^b
Medical conference admission, transportation, meals, etc.	Potentially qualifying expense	Expenses for admission and transportation to a medical conference qualify, if they relate to a chronic disease suffered by you, your spouse, or another individual whose expenses are eligible for tax-free reimbursement, and if the conference is primarily for and essential to the person in need of medical care. ^c Includes transportation expenses to the city where the conference is held, plus local transportation to the conference. Most of the time at the conference must be spent attending sessions on medical information. The expenses of meals and lodging while attending the conference don't qualify. ^d See subsection L.8.

*. IRS Publication 502 (Medical and Dental Expenses).

†. Rev. Rul. 55-155, 1955-1 C.B. 245; Rev. Rul. 55-261, 1955-1 C.B. 307, as modified by Rev. Rul. 63-91, 1963-1 C.B. 54.

‡. Treas. Reg. §§1.213-1(e)(1)(iv) and (v) (referring to meals that are part of the cost of "inpatient care" as an expenditure for medical care), and Rev. Rul. 2000-24, 2000-19 I.R.B. 963. See also Rev. Rul. 73-325, 1973-2 C.B. 75 and IRS Publication 502 (Medical and Dental Expenses).

a. IRS Publication 502 (Medical and Dental Expenses). See also *Levine v. Comm'r*, 695 F.2d 57 (2d Cir. 1982).

b. Informal, nonbinding remarks of Donna Crisalli, IRS, Office of Chief Counsel, Aug. 1997 ECFC Annual Symposium.

c. Rev. Rul. 2000-24, 2000-19 I.R.B. 963.

d. Rev. Rul. 2000-24, 2000-19 I.R.B. 963.

Expense	Is Expense a Qualifying Expense?	Comments and Special Rules
Medical information plan charges	Qualifying expense	These are expenses paid to a plan to keep medical information so that it can be retrieved from a computer databank for the medical care of you, your spouse, or another individual whose expenses are eligible for tax-free reimbursement.*
Medical monitoring and testing devices	Qualifying expense †	Examples of such devices are blood-pressure monitors, syringes, glucose kit, etc. Also see Blood-sugar test kits and test strips; Body scans; Diagnostic items/services; Ovulation monitor; and Pregnancy test kits.
Medical records charges	Qualifying expense ‡	For example, the fee associated with transferring medical records to a new medical practitioner will qualify.
Medicines and drugs	Potentially qualifying expense	See Drugs and medicines.
Menstrual pain relievers (Examples: Midol, Pamprin)	Potentially qualifying expense	Must be prescribed, even if available without a prescription. See Drugs and medicines.
Mentally handicapped, special home for	Potentially qualifying expense	The cost of keeping a mentally handicapped person in a special home (not a relative's home) on a psychiatrist's recommendation to help that person adjust from life in a mental hospital to community living may qualify. ^a See also Schools and education, residential and subsection L.14.
Midwife	Qualifying expense ^b	See also Doula; Lamaze classes; and Nursing services.
Mineral supplements	Potentially qualifying expense	Won't qualify if used to maintain general health. ^c But under narrow circumstances, mineral supplements might qualify if recommended by a medical practitioner for a specific medical condition (for example, a prescribed dosage of iron daily to treat iron-deficiency anemia). To show that the expense is primarily for medical care, a note from a medical practitioner recommending the item to treat a specific medical condition is normally required. See Dietary supplements and subsection L.4.
Missed appointment	Not a	Such fees would not be for medical care.

fees	qualifying expense	
Moisturizers	Not a qualifying expense	See Cosmetics; Toiletries; and Cosmetic procedures.

* IRS Publication 502 (Medical and Dental Expenses).

† Treas. Reg. §1.213-1(e)(1)(ii) (allowing that payments for medical care include “medical, laboratory, surgical, dental and other diagnostic and healing services”).

‡ Cf. Rev. Rul. 71-282, 1971-2 C.B. 166 (fee for retrieval of medical information from computer databank).

a. IRS Publication 502 (Medical and Dental Expenses).

b. Informal, nonbinding remarks of Donna Crisalli, IRS, Office of Chief Counsel, Aug. 12, 2011 ECFC Annual Symposium.

c. IRS Publication 502 (Medical and Dental Expenses).

Expense	Is Expense a Qualifying Expense?	Comments and Special Rules
“Morning-after” contraceptive pills	Potentially qualifying expense	Must be prescribed, even if available without a prescription. See Drugs and medicines. Also see Birth-control pills and Contraceptives.
Motion sickness pills (Examples: Bonine, Dramamine)	Potentially qualifying expense	Must be prescribed, even if available without a prescription. See Drugs and medicines.
Motion sickness wristbands	Qualifying expense	
Mouthwash	Not a qualifying expense	Such expenses generally won't qualify. * See Cosmetics and Toiletries. However, depending on the facts and circumstances, a special mouthwash recommended by a medical practitioner for the treatment of gingivitis might qualify. †
Nail polish	Not a qualifying expense	See Cosmetics and Toiletries.
Nasal strips or sprays	Potentially qualifying expense	Nasal sprays or strips that are used to treat sinus problems qualify as being primarily for medical care, as would those that are used to prevent sleep apnea. ‡ However, nasal strips or sprays used to prevent run-of-the-mill snoring wouldn't qualify, nor would those used by athletes to potentially increase athletic performance. To show that the expense is primarily for medical care, a note from a medical practitioner recommending the item to treat a specific medical condition is normally required. Note that medicated sprays must be prescribed, even if available without a prescription. See Drugs and medicines.
Naturopathic healers	Potentially qualifying expense	See Alternative healers; Drugs and medicines; Special foods; Vitamins; and subsections L.2, L.3, L.4, and L.7.

Nicotine gum or patches (Examples: Nicoderm, Nicorette)	Potentially qualifying expense	Such items are primarily for medical care when used for stop-smoking purposes; must be prescribed, even if available without a prescription. See Drugs and medicines .
Nonprescription drugs and medicines	Potentially qualifying expense	See Drugs and Medicines .
Norplant insertion or removal	Qualifying expense ^a	Also see Contraceptives; Birth-control pills; Vasectomy; and Spermicidal foam .
Nursing services for a baby	Not a qualifying expense.	Won't qualify if the baby is healthy. ^b

^{*} Informal, nonbinding remarks of Harry Beker, Barbara Pie, and John Sapienza, IRS, Office of Chief Counsel, Oct. 22, 2003 ECFC Teleconference.

[†] Informal, nonbinding remarks of Harry Beker, Barbara Pie, and John Sapienza, IRS, Office of Chief Counsel, Oct. 22, 2003 ECFC Teleconference.

[‡] IRS Information Letter 2009-0209 (July 14, 2009).

^a Treas. Reg. §1.213-1(e).

^b IRS Publication 502 (Medical and Dental Expenses).

Expense	Is Expense a Qualifying Expense?	Comments and Special Rules
Nursing services provided by a nurse or other attendant	Potentially qualifying expense	Wages, employment taxes, and other amounts you pay for nursing services (including extra costs for nurses' room and board) generally will qualify, whether provided in the participant's home or another facility. [*] The attendant doesn't have to be a nurse, so long as the services are of a kind generally performed by a nurse. These include services connected with caring for the patient's condition, such as giving medication or changing dressings, as well as bathing and grooming. But if the person providing nursing services also provides household and personal services, the amounts must be accounted for separately—only those for nursing services qualify. [†] See also subsection L.10.
Nutritional supplements	Potentially qualifying expense	See Dietary Supplements . [‡]
Nutritionist's professional expenses	Potentially qualifying expense	May qualify if the treatment relates to a specifically diagnosed medical condition. Won't qualify if the expense is for general health. ^a To show that the expense is primarily for medical care, a note from a medical practitioner recommending the item to treat a specific medical condition is normally required. See also Special foods and subsections L.3 and L.4.
Obstetrical expenses	Qualifying expense ^b	
Occlusal guards to prevent teeth grinding	Qualifying expense ^c	

Occupational therapy	Potentially qualifying expense	Will qualify if it treats or alleviates a medical condition. To show that the expense is primarily for medical care, a note from a medical practitioner recommending it to treat a specific medical condition is normally required.
Omega-3 supplements	Potentially qualifying expense	See Dietary supplements and subsection L.3.
One-a-day vitamins	Not a qualifying expense	See Vitamins .

* Treas. Reg. §1.213-1(e)(1)(ii).

† IRS Publication 502 (Medical and Dental Expenses).

‡ Rev. Rul. 2003-102, 2003-38 I.R.B. 559. Although the IRS has declared this Ruling obsolete as of January 1, 2011 (see Rev. Rul. 2010-23, 2010-39 I.R.B. 388), its logic would still seem to be applicable regarding nutritional supplements.

^a Informal, nonbinding remarks of Katherine Kiss, IRS, Office of Chief Counsel, Aug. 1999 ECFC Annual Symposium.

^b Treas. Reg. §1.213-1(e)(1)(ii).

^c Informal, nonbinding remarks of Katherine Kiss, IRS, Office of Chief Counsel, Aug. 1996 ECFC Annual Symposium.

Expense	Is Expense a Qualifying Expense?	Comments and Special Rules
Online or telephone consultation, medical practitioner's fee for	Qualifying expense	Will qualify, so long as the consultation's purpose is to obtain advice to diagnose, treat, or mitigate a medical condition and the practice is legal in the applicable state or other locality. * See also Telemedicine, medical practitioner's fee for and subsection L.15.
Operations	Qualifying expense	Will qualify if the operations are legal (and aren't cosmetic procedures). [†] See Cosmetic procedures and subsection L.1.
Optometrist	Qualifying expense	See also Eye examinations, eyeglasses, equipment, and materials .
Organ donors	Qualifying expense	See Transplants .
Orthodontia	Qualifying expense	Such expenses generally will qualify. [‡] When an orthodontic treatment plan is paid up-front at the time of the first visit, some health FSAs will apportion the reimbursements as services are provided during the treatment plan. See also Dental services and procedures; Prepayments; and subsections G.3 and L.1.
Orthopedic shoe inserts	Qualifying expense	Will qualify if used to treat injured or weakened body parts. ^a
Orthopedic shoes	Potentially qualifying expense	Won't qualify if used for personal or preventive reasons. If used to treat or alleviate a specific medical condition, only the excess cost of the specialized orthopedic shoe over the cost of a regular shoe will qualify. ^b To show that the expense is primarily for medical care, a note from a medical practitioner recommending the item to treat a specific medical

		condition is normally required.
Osteopath fees	Qualifying expense ^c	
Over-the-counter (OTC) drugs	Potentially qualifying expense	See Drugs and medicines .
Ovulation monitor	Qualifying expense ^d	See also Medical monitoring and testing devices and Pregnancy test kits .
Oxygen	Qualifying expense	This includes the expenses of oxygen and oxygen equipment for breathing problems caused by a medical condition. ^e
Pain relievers (Examples: Advil, Aspirin, Tylenol)	Potentially qualifying expense	Must be prescribed, even if available without a prescription. See Drugs and medicines .

^{*} Informal, nonbinding remarks of Donna Crisalli, IRS, Office of Chief Counsel, Aug. 12, 2011 ECFC Annual Symposium.

^f Treas. Reg. §1.213-1(e)(1)(ii).

[‡] See IRS Information Letter (Feb. 19, 1997).

^a IRS Information Letter 2009-0209 (July 14, 2009).

^b IRS Information Letter 2009-0209 (July 14, 2009).

^c Rev. Rul. 55-261, 1955-1 C.B. 307, as modified by Rev. Rul. 63-91, 1963-1 C.B. 54.

^d Treas. Reg. §1.213-1(e)(1)(ii) (allowing that payments for medical care include “medical, laboratory, surgical, dental and other diagnostic and healing services”).

^e Rev. Rul. 55-261, 1955-1 C.B. 307, as modified by Rev. Rul. 63-91, 1963-1 C.B. 54.

Expense	Is Expense a Qualifying Expense?	Comments and Special Rules
Perfume	Not a qualifying expense	See Cosmetics and Toiletries .
Permanent waves	Not a qualifying expense	See Cosmetics and Toiletries .
Personal trainer fees	Potentially qualifying expense	Will qualify if a medical practitioner has recommended a supervised exercise regimen in order to treat a disease or injury (e.g., rehabilitation after surgery or the treatment of obesity) and if incurred for a limited duration. [*] The expense must not have been incurred “but for” the disease (e.g., if you were working with a personal trainer before being diagnosed, the expense would not qualify). To show that the expense is primarily for medical care, a note from a medical practitioner recommending it to treat a specific medical

		condition is normally required. See Weight-loss programs and/or drugs prescribed to induce weight loss.
Petroleum jelly	Potentially qualifying expense	Won't qualify if used to maintain general health or for other personal reasons (e.g., as a toiletry or a cosmetic). May qualify if used to treat or alleviate a specific medical condition, and if the expense would not have been incurred “but for” the condition. [†] To show that the expense is primarily for medical care, a note from a medical practitioner recommending the item to treat a specific medical condition is normally required.
Physical exams	Qualifying expense [‡]	
Physical therapy	Qualifying expense ^a	
Pregnancy test kits	Qualifying expense ^b	Also see Medical monitoring and testing devices and Ovulation monitor.
Prenatal vitamins	Potentially qualifying expense	Obstetricians routinely recommend prenatal vitamins for the health of unborn children. If taken during pregnancy (a medical condition), prenatal vitamins would be considered primarily for medical care. ^c Vitamins taken at other times generally do not qualify. See Vitamins.

^{*} Informal, nonbinding remarks of Harry Beker, Barbara Pie, and John Sapienza, IRS, Office of Chief Counsel, Oct. 22, 2003 ECFC Teleconference.

[†] IRS Information Letter 2009-0209 (July 14, 2009).

[‡] Rev. Rul. 2007-72, 2007-50 I.R.B. 1154 (annual physical exam is diagnostic and qualifies as a medical care expense, even when individual lacks symptoms of illness).

^a Rev. Rul. 55-261, 1955-1 C.B. 307, as modified by Rev. Rul. 63-91, 1963-1 C.B. 54.

^b Treas. Reg. §1.213-1(e)(1)(ii) (allowing that payments for medical care include “medical, laboratory, surgical, dental, and other diagnostic and healing services”); *see also* Rev. Rul. 2007-72, 2007-50 I.R.B. 1154 (pregnancy test kit is for medical care).

^c Informal, nonbinding remarks of John Sapienza, IRS, Office of Chief Counsel, Nov. 5, 2003 ECFC Teleconference.

Expense	Is Expense a Qualifying Expense?	Comments and Special Rules
Prepayments	Not a qualifying expense	Generally, prepayments for services/items that have not yet been incurred/obtained are not reimbursable under a health FSA. See Dental services and procedures; Fertility treatments; and Orthodontia.
Prescription drug discount programs	Not a qualifying expense	If an individual pays a fee for a card that provides for a 20% discount on all prescribed drugs, the fee itself would not qualify. In contrast, the cost of a prescribed drug generally will qualify. See Drugs and Medicines.
Prescription drugs	Potentially qualifying expense	See Drugs and medicines.
Prescription drugs and medicines obtained	Not a qualifying	Importing prescription drugs from other countries generally will violate federal law. [*] However, a drug or medicine may qualify for reimbursement if (1) it is purchased and

from other countries	expense	consumed in the other country and is legal in both that country and the U.S. or (2) the FDA announces that it can be legally imported by individuals. See Drugs and medicines and subsection L.2.
Preventive care screenings	Qualifying expense	Will qualify if the tests are used for medical diagnoses. [†] Examples include blood pressure, hearing, vision, and cholesterol screenings. Also see Body scans and Diagnostic items/services .
Probiotics	Potentially qualifying expense	Won't qualify if used to maintain general health or for other personal reasons. May qualify if used to treat or alleviate a specific medical condition, and if the expense would not have been incurred "but for" the condition. [‡] To show that the expense is primarily for medical care, a note from a medical practitioner recommending the item to treat a specific medical condition is normally required.
Propecia	Potentially qualifying expense	Generally won't qualify if purchased for cosmetic purposes (for example, to treat male pattern baldness), even if recommended by a medical practitioner. But the expense may qualify if it is to ameliorate a deformity arising from a congenital abnormality, personal injury from an accident or trauma, or disfiguring disease. See Cosmetic procedures and Drugs and medicines .
Prosthesis	Qualifying expense ^a	See Artificial limbs and teeth .
Psychiatric care	Qualifying expense	Also includes the cost of supporting mentally ill dependent at a special center that provides medical care. ^b

^{*} See IRS Publication 502 (Medical and Dental Expenses) and IRS Information Letter 2005-0011 (Mar. 14, 2005).

[†] Priv. Ltr. Rul. 200140017 (June 25, 2001).

[‡] IRS Information Letter 2009-0209 (July 14, 2009).

^a IRS Publication 502 (Medical and Dental Expenses).

^b IRS Publication 502 (Medical and Dental Expenses).

Expense	Is Expense a Qualifying Expense?	Comments and Special Rules
Psychoanalysis	Potentially qualifying expense	Will qualify if provided for medical care, and not just for the general improvement of mental health, relief of stress, or personal enjoyment, nor if the expense stems from training to be a psychoanalyst. [*] To show that the expense is primarily for medical care, a note from a medical practitioner recommending it to treat a specific medical condition is normally required. Also see Counseling and Psychologist .
Psychologist	Potentially qualifying expense	Will qualify if the expense is for medical care, [†] and not just for the general improvement of mental health, relief of stress, or personal enjoyment. [‡] To show that the expense is primarily for medical care, a note from a medical practitioner recommending it to treat a specific medical condition is normally required. Also see Counseling .
Radial keratotomy	Qualifying expense ^a	Corneal ring segments (removable plastic half-rings that correct vision) would also qualify. ^b See Laser eye surgery, Lasik and Vision correction procedures .
Reading glasses	Qualifying	Both prescription and nonprescription reading glasses would qualify. Also see Eye

	expense ^c	examinations, eyeglasses, equipment, and materials.
Recliner chairs	Not a qualifying expense	Generally won't qualify, unless used exclusively to treat a specific medical condition, as diagnosed and prescribed by a medical practitioner. See Mattresses .
Rehydration solution (Example: Pedialyte)	Qualifying expense ^d	Note that adult athletic rehydration fluids typically will not qualify.
Rental cars	Potentially qualifying expense	See Transportation .
Rental fee, for equipment	Potentially qualifying expense	Will qualify if the equipment otherwise qualifies as a medical care expense (for example, Breast pumps or Crutches). ^e
Retin-A	Potentially qualifying expense	Generally won't qualify if purchased for cosmetic purposes (for example, to reduce wrinkles), even if recommended by a medical practitioner. But may qualify if recommended by a medical practitioner for a specific medical condition (e.g., acne vulgaris) and not for cosmetic purposes. To show that the expense is primarily for medical care, a note from a medical practitioner recommending it to treat a specific medical condition is normally required; must be prescribed, even if available without a prescription. See Acne treatment; Cosmetic procedures; Drugs and medicines ; and subsections L.1 and L.2.

* IRS Publication 502 (Medical and Dental Expenses).

† Rev. Rul. 75-187, 1975-1 C.B. 92.

‡ IRS Publication 502 (Medical and Dental Expenses).

^a Priv. Ltr. Rul. 9625049 (June 21, 1996); Priv. Ltr. Rul. 200226003 (Mar. 7, 2002); IRS Publication 502 (Medical and Dental Expenses).

^b Rev. Rul. 2003-57, 2003-22 I.R.B. 959.

^c Informal, nonbinding remarks of Katherine Kiss, IRS, Office of Chief Counsel, Aug. 1999 ECFC Annual Symposium.

^d IRS Information Letter 2009-0209 (July 14, 2009).

^e Informal, nonbinding remarks of Donna Crisalli, IRS, Office of Chief Counsel, Aug. 8, 2014 ECFC Annual Symposium.

Expense	Is Expense a Qualifying Expense?	Comments and Special Rules
Rogaine	Potentially qualifying expense	Generally won't qualify if purchased for cosmetic purposes. But may qualify if it is recommended by a medical practitioner for a specific medical condition. To show that the expense is primarily for medical care, a note from a medical practitioner recommending it to treat a specific medical condition is normally required; must be prescribed, even if available without a prescription. See Propecia and Drugs and medicines . Also see subsections L.1 and L.2.

Rubbing alcohol	Qualifying expense	Will qualify when purchased for first-aid purposes (e.g., when purchased in first-aid quantities in a pharmacy or first-aid section of a retail store).*
Rubdowns	Potentially qualifying expense	Generally won't qualify, unless a medical practitioner determines that the procedure is necessary to treat a specific medical condition.† To show that the expense is primarily for medical care, a note from a medical practitioner recommending it to treat a specific medical condition is normally required. See Massage therapy and subsection L.6.
Safety glasses	Not a qualifying expense	Probably won't qualify unless prescribed.‡ See Eye examinations, eyeglasses, equipment, and materials .
Schools and education, residential	Potentially qualifying expense	Payments made to a residential school or program to treat an individual for behavioral, emotional, or addictive conditions (tuition, meals, and lodging) will qualify if a principal reason for attending the program is to receive medical care. (Ordinary education must be an incidental component.) Whether someone is attending to receive medical care is a question of fact that must be determined for each individual—just because a school or program provides medical care to some individuals does not mean that it provides medical care to all individuals. If a child is at a school because the courses and disciplinary methods have a beneficial effect on the child's attitude, the expenses won't qualify unless the availability of medical care in the school is a principal reason for sending the child there. See subsection L.14. Also see Schools and education, special and Pre-payments .
Schools and education, special	Potentially qualifying expense	Payments made for a mentally impaired or physically disabled person to attend a special school (tuition, meals, and lodging) will qualify if a principal reason for attending the school is to overcome or alleviate the disability. (Ordinary education must be an incidental component.) This includes teaching Braille to a visually impaired person, teaching lip reading to a person with a hearing disability, and remedial language training to correct a condition caused by a birth defect. If a child is at a school because the courses and disciplinary methods have a beneficial effect on the child's attitude, the expenses won't qualify unless the availability of medical care in the school is a principal reason for sending the child there. See subsection L.14. Also see Schools and education, residential and Prepayments .

* Although not official guidance, the Federal Flexible Benefits Plan treats rubbing alcohol as a reimbursable expense. See the Federal Flexible Benefits Plan eligible expense listing for first aid supplies (as visited Aug. 25, 2015).

† IRS Information Letter 2000-0405 (Dec. 29, 2000).

‡ Informal, nonbinding remarks of Katherine Kiss, IRS, Office of Chief Counsel, Aug. 1999 ECFC Annual Symposium.

Expense	Is Expense a Qualifying Expense?	Comments and Special Rules
Scooter, electric	Potentially qualifying expense	Will only qualify if used to relieve sickness or disability. To show that the expense is primarily for medical care, a note from a medical practitioner recommending it to treat a specific medical condition is normally required.
Screening tests	Qualifying expense	Will qualify if the tests are used for medical diagnoses.* Examples include hearing, vision, and cholesterol screenings. Also see Body scans and Diagnostic items/services .
Service animal, to assist individual with mental health disabilities	Potentially qualifying expense	Expenses of buying, training, and maintaining a service animal to assist an individual with mental health disabilities may qualify if the individual can show that he or she is using the service animal primarily for medical care to alleviate a mental defect or illness and would

		not have paid the expenses but for the defect or illness. [†] Also see Guide dog and Veterinary fees .
Shampoos	Not a qualifying expense	Generally won't qualify. See Cosmetics and Toiletries .
Shaving cream or lotion	Not a qualifying expense	See Cosmetics and Toiletries .
Shipping and handling fees	Qualifying expense	Shipping and handling fees incurred to obtain an item that constitutes medical care (e.g., drugs or medicine) are inextricably linked to the cost of the medical care and therefore qualify. [‡] See subsection L.12.
Sinus medications (Examples: Sinutab, Sudafed)	Potentially qualifying expense	Must be prescribed, even if available without a prescription. See Drugs and medicines and Nasal strips or sprays .
Skin moisturizers	Not a qualifying expense	See Cosmetics and Toiletries .
Sleep-deprivation treatment	Qualifying expense	Probably qualifies if the person is under the care of a medical practitioner.
Smoking-cessation medications	Potentially qualifying expense	Amounts paid for drugs used to stop smoking would qualify; must be prescribed, even if available without a prescription. ^a See Drugs and medicines; Nicotine gum or patches ; and subsection L.2.

* Priv. Ltr. Rul. 200140017 (June 25, 2001).

† IRS Information Letter 2010-0129 (May 11, 2010).

‡ Informal, nonbinding remarks of Harry Beker, Barbara Pie, and John Sapienza, IRS, Office of Chief Counsel, Oct. 22, 2003 ECFC Teleconference.

^a Rev. Rul. 99-28, 1999-25 I.R.B. 6.

Expense	Is Expense a Qualifying Expense?	Comments and Special Rules
Smoking-cessation programs	Qualifying expense	Amounts paid for a smoking-cessation (stop-smoking) program would qualify. [*] See Smoking-cessation medications and subsection L.2.
Soaps	Not a qualifying expense	Generally won't qualify. See Cosmetics and Toiletries .
Special foods	Potentially qualifying expense	Will qualify if prescribed by a medical practitioner to treat a specific illness or ailment and if the foods do not substitute for normal nutritional requirements. [†] Food modified for special diets (e.g., gluten-free) may also qualify, but only to the extent that the cost of the special food exceeds the cost of commonly available versions of the same product. [‡] To show that the expense is primarily for medical care, a note from a medical practitioner

		recommending it to treat a specific medical condition is normally required. See subsection L.4; see also Infant formula .
Speech therapy	Qualifying expense ^a	
Sperm, storage fees	Potentially qualifying expense	Fees for temporary storage might qualify, but only to the extent necessary for immediate conception. Storage fees for undefined future conception probably aren't considered to be for medical care. "Temporary" is not defined; however, one consideration might be whether it is stored and used within the same year. ^b Also see Fertility treatments; Eggs and embryos, storage fees; Surrogate or gestational carrier expenses; Prepayments; and subsection L.13.
Spermicidal foam	Potentially qualifying expense	Must be prescribed, even if available without a prescription. See Drugs and medicines . Also see Contraceptives .
St. John's Wort	Potentially qualifying expense	Will qualify if used primarily for medical care (for example, to treat a diagnosed medical condition such as depression); won't qualify if used to maintain general health. To show that the expense is primarily for medical care, a note from a medical practitioner recommending the item to treat a specific medical condition is normally required.
Stem cell, harvesting and/or storage of	Potentially qualifying expense	Might qualify if there is a specific and imminent medical condition that the stem cells are intended to treat. For example, the cost of harvesting and storing stem cells because a newborn has a birth defect and the stem cells would be needed in the near future might be allowable. ^c But collection and storage indefinitely, just in case an item might be needed, is not medical care. ^d See DNA collection and storage; Prepayments; and Umbilical cord blood storage .

^{*} Rev. Rul. 99-28, 1999-25 I.R.B. 6.

[†] See, e.g., Rev. Rul. 2002-19, 2002-16 I.R.B. 778, Rev. Rul. 55-261, 1955-1 C.B. 307, Priv. Ltr. Rul. 200941003 (July 1, 2009) (infant formula for the healthy baby of a woman who could not breastfeed due to a double mastectomy was a personal expense; because the formula satisfied the baby's normal nutritional needs, it was food that the baby would normally consume and was not a medical care expense).

[‡] See, e.g., *Randolph v. Comm'r*, 67 T.C. 481 (1976).

^a Rev. Rul. 55-261, 1955-1 C.B. 307, as modified by Rev. Rul. 63-91, 1963-1 C.B. 54.

^b Informal, nonbinding remarks of John Sapienza, IRS, Office of Chief Counsel, May 2002 ECFC Teleconference.

^c See ABA Joint Committee on Employee Benefits, Questions and Answers for the IRS, Q/A-3 (May 11, 2002) (as visited Nov. 12, 2012). See also IRS Information Letter 2010-0017 (Nov. 2, 2009).

^d See, e.g., IRS Information Letter 2010-0017 (Nov. 2, 2009) and Priv. Ltr. Rul. 200140017 (June 25, 2001).

Expense	Is Expense a Qualifying Expense?	Comments and Special Rules
Sterilization procedures	Qualifying expense	Sterilization expenses include the cost of a legally performed operation to make a person unable to have children. [*] Also see Vasectomy .
Stop-smoking program	Qualifying	See Smoking-cessation programs .

	expense	
Student health fee	Potentially qualifying expense	A fee that is simply the cost of belonging to the program won't qualify. Expenses for specific medical services might qualify.
Sunburn creams and ointments, medicated (Example: Solarcaine)	Potentially qualifying expense	Will qualify if used to treat a sunburn (and not as regular skin moisturizers); must be prescribed, even if available without a prescription. See Drugs and medicines . Also see Sunscreen .
Sunglasses	Potentially qualifying expense	Prescription sunglasses would qualify. Allowable amounts include the expenses of eye examinations, eyeglasses, and lenses needed for medical reasons. It is unclear whether nonprescription sunglasses or clip-on sunglasses recommended by a physician to alleviate an eye condition would qualify. [†]
Sun-protective (SPF) clothing	Potentially qualifying expense	Won't qualify if used to maintain general health or for other personal reasons. May qualify if used to treat or alleviate a specific medical condition (e.g., melanoma) and if the expense would not have been incurred "but for" the condition, but only the excess cost of the specialized garment over the cost of ordinary clothing will qualify. To show that the expense is primarily for medical care, a note from a medical practitioner recommending the item to treat a specific medical condition is normally required. Also see Sunscreen and Sunscreen, cosmetics or similar products with .
Sunscreen	Potentially qualifying expense	There is no official guidance, but an IRS official has informally commented that sunscreen will likely qualify as a medical care expense because its sole purpose is to prevent sunburn, although it is unclear whether its ingredients may be considered drugs requiring a prescription in order to be reimbursable. [‡] Some plans may take a more cautious approach, for example, by reimbursing only products at or above a specified SPF (e.g., 15, due to recent FDA guidance) and/or always requiring a prescription. ^a Also see Sunscreen, cosmetics or similar products with and Suntan lotion without sunscreen .

* Rev. Rul. 73-603, 1973-2 C.B. 76.

† IRS Information Letter 2000-0073 (June 30, 2000).

‡ Informal, nonbinding remarks of Donna Crisalli, IRS, Office of Chief Counsel, Aug. 17, 2012 ECFC Annual Symposium, Mar. 30, 2012 ECFC Annual Conference, and Aug. 12, 2011 ECFC Annual Symposium; *but see* IRS Information Letter 2009-0209 (July 14, 2009) (characterizing sunscreen as a dual-purpose item that may qualify if used to treat or alleviate a specific medical condition, and if the expense would not have been incurred but for the condition).

^a See FDA Sheds Light on Sunscreens (May 17, 2012) (as visited Nov. 12, 2012).

Expense	Is Expense a Qualifying Expense?	Comments and Special Rules
Sunscreen, cosmetics or similar products with	Potentially qualifying expense	There is no official guidance, but an IRS official has informally commented that the excess cost of the version of the item with the sunscreen over the cost of the regular item would probably qualify, although it is unclear whether its ingredients may be considered drugs requiring a prescription in order to be reimbursable. Some plans may take a more cautious approach, for example, by not reimbursing the excess cost of items with a sunscreen component, or by reimbursing only products at or above a specified SPF (e.g., 15, due to recent FDA guidance) and/or always requiring a prescription. [†] Also see Sunscreen and Suntan lotion without sunscreen .

Suntan lotion without sunscreen	Not a qualifying expense	Suntan lotion and similar products without sunscreen generally won't qualify. [‡] Also see Sunscreen and Sunscreen, cosmetics or similar products with .
Supplies to treat medical condition	Qualifying expense	Will qualify if the medical supply is used to diagnose or treat a specific medical condition and isn't a personal comfort item. Also see Bandages and Crutches .
Support braces	Qualifying expense	Will qualify if used for injured or weakened body parts. ^a
Surgery	Qualifying expense	Generally will qualify. See Operations .
Surrogate or gestational carrier expenses	Not a qualifying expense	Such expenses generally won't qualify, even if they are for medical care of the surrogate/gestational carrier or her unborn child. ^b The procedure is performed upon you, your spouse, or another individual whose expenses are eligible for tax-free reimbursement in order to be medical care. Also see Fertility treatments; Egg donor fees; Eggs and embryos, storage fees; Legal fees in connection with fertility treatments; Sperm, storage fees; and subsection L.13.
Swimming lessons	Potentially qualifying expense	Such expenses generally won't qualify, but there are some exceptions. ^c See Dancing lessons and subsection D.

* Informal, nonbinding remarks of Donna Crisalli, IRS, Office of Chief Counsel, Aug. 17, 2012 ECFC Annual Symposium, Mar. 30, 2012 ECFC Annual Conference, and Aug. 12, 2011 ECFC Annual Symposium; *but see* IRS Information Letter 2009-0209 (July 14, 2009) (characterizing sunscreen as a dual-purpose item that may qualify if used to treat or alleviate a specific medical condition, and if the expense would not have been incurred but for the condition).

‡ See FDA Sheds Light on Sunscreens (May 17, 2012) (as visited Nov. 12, 2012).

‡ Informal, nonbinding remarks of Donna Crisalli, IRS, Office of Chief Counsel, Mar. 30, 2012 ECFC Annual Conference.

^a IRS Information Letter 2009-0209 (July 14, 2009).

^b IRS Information Letter 2002-0291 (Aug. 12, 2002); *Magdalin v. Comm'r*, T.C. Memo. 2008-293 (2008), *aff'd* 105 AFTR 2d 2010-442 (1st Cir. 2009).

^c IRS Publication 502 (Medical and Dental Expenses).

Expense	Is Expense a Qualifying Expense?	Comments and Special Rules
Swimming pool maintenance	Potentially qualifying expense	Such expenses generally won't qualify if the swimming pool is used for recreation. However, if the swimming pool is used primarily for medical care by someone who has been diagnosed with a medical condition and a medical practitioner has substantiated that the pool is part of the medical treatment, then the cost of maintaining the pool might qualify. [*] See also Capital expenses .
Tanning salons and equipment	Not a qualifying expense	See Cosmetic procedures . In rare cases, they might qualify if recommended for a specific medical condition (such as a skin disorder), so long as there is no personal element or use of the equipment by other family members. [†]
Taxes on medical services and products	Qualifying expense	Such expenses generally will qualify to the extent that the tax is imposed on qualified medical care services/items. This includes local, sales, service, and other taxes. See

		subsection L.12.
Teeth whitening	Not a qualifying expense	Won't qualify if tooth discoloration is simply the result of aging or other natural processes, and the whitening is done for cosmetic purposes. [‡] But if tooth discoloration (rising to the level of a deformity) was caused by disease, birth defect, or injury, expenses for teeth whitening might qualify. ^a See Cosmetic procedures and subsection L.1.
Telemedicine, medical practitioner's fee for	Qualifying expense	Will qualify, so long as the consultation's purpose is to obtain advice to diagnose, treat, or mitigate a medical condition and the practice is legal in the applicable state or other locality. ^b See also Online or telephone consultation, medical practitioner's fee for and subsection L.15.
Telephone equipment for persons with hearing or speech disabilities	Qualifying expense	The expenses of buying and repairing special telephone equipment that lets a person who is deaf, hard of hearing, or has a speech disability communicate over a regular telephone will qualify. ^c This includes teletypewriter (TTY) and telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) equipment. See Capital expenses .
Television for persons with hearing disabilities	Qualifying expense	Equipment that displays the audio part of television programs as subtitles for a person with a hearing disability will qualify. But the amount that qualifies is limited to the excess of the cost over the cost of the regular item. For example, the cost of a specially equipped television qualifies only to the extent that it exceeds the cost of a regular model. ^d See Capital expenses .
Therapy	Potentially qualifying expense	Depends on the type and purpose of the therapy. Will qualify if provided for medical care (and not just for the general improvement of mental health, relief of stress, or personal enjoyment). ^e See entries throughout for various types of therapy and counseling; see also Schools and education, residential/special and subsection L.14.

^{*} See *Emanuel v. Comm'r*, T.C. Summary Opinion 2002-127 (2002).

[†] Informal, nonbinding remarks of Katherine Kiss, IRS, Office of Chief Counsel, Aug. 1998 ECFC Annual Symposium.

[‡] Rev. Rul. 2003-57, 2003-22 I.R.B. 959.

^a Informal, nonbinding remarks of Donna Crisalli, IRS, Office of Chief Counsel, May 2002 ECFC Teleconference.

^b Informal, nonbinding remarks of Donna Crisalli, IRS, Office of Chief Counsel, Aug. 12, 2011 ECFC Annual Symposium.

^c Rev. Rul. 71-48, 1971-1 C.B. 99; Rev. Rul. 73-53, 1973-1 C.B. 139. See also IRS Information Letter 2000-0032 (June 30, 2000) (while specialized equipment to enable a hearing-impaired person to communicate effectively over a regular telephone was a medical care expense, the telephone itself was not) and IRS Publication 502 (Medical and Dental Expenses).

^d IRS Publication 502 (Medical and Dental Expenses).

^e IRS Publication 502 (Medical and Dental Expenses).

Expense	Is Expense a Qualifying Expense?	Comments and Special Rules
Thermometers	Qualifying expense	Will qualify if for medical use. See Supplies to treat medical condition .
Throat lozenges	Potentially	Must be prescribed, even if available without a prescription. See Drugs and medicines .

(Examples: Cepacol, Chloraseptic)	qualifying expense	See also Cough suppressants .
Toiletries	Not a qualifying expense	A toiletry is an article or preparation that is used in the process of dressing and grooming oneself. Examples include toothpaste, shaving cream or lotion, and cologne. See also Cosmetics .
Toothache and teething pain relievers (Examples: Anbesol, Orajel)	Potentially qualifying expense	Must be prescribed, even if available without a prescription. See Drugs and medicines .
Toothbrushes	Not a qualifying expense	Won't qualify, even if a dentist recommends special ones (such as electric or battery-powered) to treat a medical condition like gingivitis. Toothbrushes are items that are used primarily to maintain general health—a person would still use one even without the medical condition. Thus, they are not primarily for medical care. [*] See Toiletries and Cosmetics .
Toothpaste	Not a qualifying expense	Generally won't qualify. [†] However, the excess cost of a special toothpaste that is recommended to treat a specific medical condition might qualify, although a special toothpaste that is a drug or medicine would have to be prescribed in order to be reimbursable. [‡] In addition, topical creams or other drugs (e.g., fluoride treatment) used to treat a medical condition would qualify, so long as they are primarily for medical care, and are prescribed if considered a medicine or drug. See Cosmetics; Dental services and procedures; Drugs and medicines; Fluoride rinses; and Toiletries .
Transplants	Qualifying expense	Includes surgical, hospital, and laboratory services as well as transportation expenses for organ donors. ^a
Transportation costs of disabled individual commuting to and from work	Not a qualifying expense	A disabled individual's commuting costs to and from work are personal expenses and not expenses for medical care. ^b However, the costs incurred for transportation to and from work may be medical expenses if the employment itself is explicitly prescribed as therapy to treat a medical condition. ^c

^{*} Informal, nonbinding remarks of Harry Beker, Barbara Pie, and John Sapienza, IRS, Office of Chief Counsel, Oct. 22, 2003 ECFC Teleconference.

[†] Treas. Reg. §1.213-1(e)(2).

[‡] Informal, nonbinding remarks of Donna Crisalli, IRS, Office of Chief Counsel, Mar. 30, 2012 ECFC Annual Conference.

^a Rev. Rul. 73-189, 1973-1 C.B. 139.

^b See, e.g., *Alderman v. Comm'r*, T.C. Summary Opinion 2004-74 (2004) (citing cases).

^c *Weinzimer v. Comm'r*, T.C. Memo. 1958-137 (1958); *Misfeldt v. Kelm*, 44 AFTR 1033 (D. Minn. 1951).

Expense	Is Expense a Qualifying Expense?	Comments and Special Rules
Transportation expenses for person to receive medical care	Qualifying expense	Will qualify if the transportation is primarily for and essential to medical care. [*] Includes car and rental car [†] expenses; bus, taxi, train, plane, and ferry fares; and ambulance services. Note that rental car expenses are limited to the portion attributable to the medical appointment or other care. [‡] Instead of actual car expenses, a standard mileage rate (23 cents per mile for 2015; 23.5 cents per mile for 2014) for use of a car to obtain medical care is allowed. Parking fees and tolls can also qualify. ^a See subsection L.8.

Transportation of someone other than the person receiving medical care	Potentially qualifying expense	Will qualify in some cases. Transportation expenses of the following persons will qualify: (1) a parent who must go with a child who needs medical care; (2) a nurse or other person who gives injections, medications, or other treatment required by a patient who is traveling to get medical care and is unable to travel alone; and (3) an individual who travels to visit a mentally ill dependent, if such visits are recommended as part of treatment. See Transportation expenses for person to receive medical care and Lodging not at a hospital or similar institution .
Transportation to and from a medical conference	Potentially qualifying expense	See Medical conference admission, transportation, meals, etc. Also see subsection L.8.
Treadmill	Potentially qualifying expense	See Exercise equipment or programs; Capital expenses; and subsection L.9.
Tuition evidencing separate breakdown for medical expenses	Qualifying expense	Will qualify to the extent that charges for medical expenses are separately broken down in a bill for tuition for a college or private school and are for specific qualified medical services/items that have been incurred/obtained (and are not premiums for medical care generally). See Student health fee and Insurance premiums .
Tuition for special-needs program	Potentially qualifying expense	Will qualify if the primary purpose is for medical care. ^b Includes reading program for dyslexia. See Learning disability, instructional fees; Schools and education, residential/special; Prepayments; and subsection L.14.
Ultrasound, prenatal	Potentially qualifying expense	Will qualify if used as a diagnostic tool to determine fetal health and development. Won't qualify if for other purposes (e.g., to obtain prenatal snapshots). Also see Genetic testing .

* Code §213(d)(1)(B) and Treas. Reg. §1.213-1(e)(iv).

† Priv. Ltr. Rul. 8321042 (Feb. 18, 1983).

‡ Informal, nonbinding remarks of Donna Crisalli, IRS, Office of Chief Counsel, Aug. 8, 2014 ECFC Annual Symposium.

^a IRS Notice 2014-79, 2014-53 I.R.B. 1001; IRS Notice 2013-80, 2013-52 I.R.B. 821; and IRS Publication 502 (Medical and Dental Expenses). See the Table of Limits regarding the mileage rate for other years.

^b See, e.g., Rev. Rul. 69-607, 1969-2 C.B. 40 and Priv. Ltr. Rul. 200521003 (Mar. 1, 2005).

Expense	Is Expense a Qualifying Expense?	Comments and Special Rules
Umbilical cord blood storage	Potentially qualifying expense	Collection and storage as a precaution to treat a disease or condition that might possibly develop in the future, in case it is needed, is not medical care. [*] But might qualify if there is an existing or imminently probable disease that the umbilical cord blood is intended to treat. [†] For example, the cost of storing cord blood where a newborn has a birth defect and where the cord blood would be needed in the near future might qualify. [‡] Also see Blood storage; Stem cell, harvesting and/or storage of; and Prepayments .
Usual and customary charges, excess	Qualifying expense	Medical expenses in excess of an insurance plan's usual, customary, and reasonable charges qualify if the underlying expense is for medical care.

Vaccines	Qualifying expense	See Immunizations .
Varicose veins, treatment of	Potentially qualifying expense	Such expenses generally won't qualify if the procedure merely improves appearance and doesn't meaningfully promote the proper function of the body or prevent or treat illness or disease. May qualify if the procedure promotes the proper function of the body or prevents or treats an illness or disease. To show that the expense is primarily for medical care, a note from a medical practitioner recommending it to treat a specific medical condition is normally required. See Cosmetic procedures .
Vasectomy	Qualifying expense ^a	See Sterilization procedures .
Vasectomy reversal	Qualifying expense	
Veneers	Not a qualifying expense	Such expenses generally won't qualify, as veneers are used primarily for cosmetic purposes. See Cosmetic procedures and Teeth whitening .
Veterinary fees	Potentially qualifying expense	Will qualify if the veterinary fees are incurred for the care of a guide dog or other animal used by a disabled person. ^b Otherwise, no.
Viagra	Qualifying expense	Will qualify if prescribed by a physician to treat a medical condition. ^c See Drugs and medicines .
Vision correction procedures	Qualifying expense	Medical procedures that correct vision, including laser procedures such as Lasik and radial keratotomy, qualify. ^d Also see Laser eye surgery, Lasik and Radial keratotomy .

* Informal, nonbinding remarks of Donna Crisalli, IRS, Office of Chief Counsel, Aug. 2, 2013 ECFC Annual Symposium.

† See, e.g., IRS Information Letter 2010-0017 (Nov. 2, 2009) and Priv. Ltr. Rul. 200140017 (June 25, 2001).

‡ Informal, nonbinding remarks of John Sapienza, IRS, Office of Chief Counsel, May 2002 ECFC Teleconference.

^a IRS Publication 502 (Medical and Dental Expenses).

^b IRS Publication 502 (Medical and Dental Expenses).

^c Informal, nonbinding remarks of Katherine Kiss, IRS, Office of Chief Counsel, Aug. 1998 ECFC Annual Symposium.

^d Rev. Rul. 2003-57, 2003-22 I.R.B. 959.

Expense	Is Expense a Qualifying Expense?	Comments and Special Rules
Vision discount programs	Not a qualifying expense	Such expenses generally won't qualify. See Insurance premiums . In contrast, expenses for actual medical treatment (such as an eye exam) generally will qualify.
Vitamins	Potentially qualifying	Won't qualify if used to maintain general health (e.g., one-a-day vitamins). [*] But under narrow circumstances, vitamins might qualify if recommended by a medical practitioner for

	expense	a specific medical condition (for example, a prescribed dosage of Vitamin B-12 daily to treat a specific vitamin deficiency). To show that the expense is primarily for medical care, a note from a medical practitioner recommending the item to treat a specific medical condition is normally required. See Prenatal vitamins; Dietary supplements; Special foods; and subsection L.4.
Walkers	Qualifying expense	Will qualify if used to relieve sickness or disability.
Wart remover treatments (Examples: Compound W, FreezeAway)	Potentially qualifying expense	Although not addressed in IRS guidance, we believe such products are for the treatment of a disease and thus would qualify as medical care; must be prescribed, even if available without a prescription. [†] See Drugs and medicines.
Weight-loss programs and/or drugs prescribed to induce weight loss	Potentially qualifying expense	Weight-loss programs will qualify if recommended by a physician to treat a specific medical condition (such as obesity, heart disease, or diabetes) and not simply to improve general health. However, food associated with a weight-loss program (such as special pre-packaged meals) would not qualify, since it just meets normal nutritional needs. [‡] To show that the expense is primarily for medical care, a note from a medical practitioner recommending it to treat a specific medical condition is normally required. Drugs and medicines must be prescribed, even if available without a prescription. See Diet foods; Drugs and medicines; Exercise equipment or programs; Health club fees; Prepayments; Special Foods; and subsection L.5.
Wheelchair	Qualifying expense	If used to relieve sickness or disability, amounts you pay for a wheelchair or autoeette and the upkeep costs will qualify. ^a Wheelchair cushions will also qualify as a necessary accessory to the wheelchair. ^b

^{*} Rev. Rul. 2003-102, 2003-38 I.R.B. 559. Although the IRS has declared this Ruling obsolete as of January 1, 2011 (see Rev. Rul. 2010-23, 2010-39 IRB 388), its logic would still seem to be applicable regarding vitamins. See also IRS Information Letter 2001-0102 (June 29, 2001).

[†] According to one dictionary definition, a wart is "caused by any of numerous genotypes of the human papillomavirus." U.S. National Library of Medicine, MEDLINEplus: Medical Dictionary (as visited Nov. 11, 2012).

[‡] Rev. Rul. 2002-19, 2002-16 I.R.B. 778.

^a Treas. Reg. §1.213-1(e)(1)(iii).

^b IRS Information Letter 2009-0209 (July 14, 2009).

Expense	Is Expense a Qualifying Expense?	Comments and Special Rules
Wigs	Potentially qualifying expense	Might qualify if the wig is prescribed by a physician for the mental health of a patient who has lost all of his or her hair from disease or treatment (e.g., chemotherapy or radiation). [*]
X-ray fees	Qualifying expense	Will qualify if the X-rays are performed for medical reasons. [†]
Yeast infection medications (Examples: Gyne-Lotrimin,	Potentially qualifying expense	Must be prescribed, even if available without a prescription. See Drugs and medicines.

Monistat)		
YMCA day camp	Not a qualifying expense	Such expenses at a YMCA or similar facility generally won't qualify. However, if a camp is a special program that is therapeutic and treats a specific disability, then the expense might qualify. [‡] To the extent attributable to a qualifying individual under a dependent care assistance program (DCAP), such expenses might be reimbursable under a DCAP if applicable rules are met (but the same expenses may not be reimbursed under a health FSA, HRA, or HSA and a DCAP—there is no “double-dipping” allowed).

* Rev. Rul. 62-189, 1962-2 C.B. 88.

† Treas. Reg. §1.213-1(e)(1)(ii).

‡ See *Emanuel v. Comm'r*, T.C. Summary Opinion 2002-127 (2002).

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