

The Medical Expenses Tax Credit Application Process

Under the MEC if you paid for healthcare expenses, for yourself or your dependants, you may be able to claim them as eligible medical expenses on your income tax and benefit return. If you or your dependant is living with a disability, you may be eligible for two additional claims through MEC as well.

The Medical Expenses Tax Credit Application Process

Eligible Individuals and Dependants

The Medical Expenses Tax Credit (MEC) can cover medical expenses for:

1. Yourself;
2. Your partner;
3. Dependant children or family members.

Eligible Medical Expenses

These medical expenses can be covered under the MEC:

- Attendant care and care in a facility;
- Care, treatment and training (includes rehabilitation, respite care, specialized school for children living with a disability, therapy, group homes, etc.)
- Construction and Renovation for increasing accessibility;
- Devices, equipment and supplies;
- Gluten free products;
- Prescribed drugs, medication and other substances (i.e. medical marijuana and insulin);
- Medical health related services and fees
- Costs associated with service animals;
- Treatment related travel expenses.

You must have access to the receipts documenting these medical expenses. You can only claim medical expenses that have not been covered by other forms of insurance. More information on the medical expenses that can be covered can be found [here](#).

File Income Tax Returns

You must file your income taxes and make the medical expenses claim as a non-deductible tax claim - for which you can receive amounts subtracted from the income tax returns owed.

Information on how to file income tax returns can be accessed through this [link](#).



Time Frame Eligibility

Medical expenses can be claimed if they were paid within any 12 month period ending in the current tax year, and not claimed in the last tax year. The federal and provincial medical expenses claimed must be claimed for the same time period.

When medical expenses are being claimed for a deceased person (either dependent or other eligible dependent), they may be claimed if they were paid within any 24 month period including the date of the person's death (and not claimed in a prior year).



3% Rule

To access the Medical Expense Tax Credit, the medical expenses you are claiming must amount to a total above a certain amount. In 2018, your total medical expenses had to either be more than \$2,268 OR 3% of your net income. If the medical expenses you are claiming is below the minimum amount of \$2,268, you would then have to calculate 3% of your net income.

For example of your net income on the federal tax form was \$30,000/year, you would calculate: $30,000 \times 0.03 = \$900$

So your medical expenses would have to be in excess of \$900 in 2017 to claim them.



For Yourself, your Spouse and Child

You can claim the **total eligible medical expenses** paid by you or your spouse or common law partner if it was paid for by:

1. Yourself;
2. Your Spouse or Common Law Partner;
3. Your children under the age of 18.

You would claim these medical expenses on **line 330** of Schedule 1 of the income tax returns.

For Other Eligible Dependents:

You can claim the **part of the eligible medical expenses** paid by you or your spouse or common law partner if it was paid for the following dependants:

1. Children over the age of 18;
2. Parents, grandparents, brothers, sisters, uncles, aunts, nieces and nephews who were residents at the time of the expenses.

You would claim part of these medical expenses on **line 331** of Schedule 1 of the income tax returns.

Documents and Verification Needed

You should not send any additional supporting documents or receipts with your tax return. The Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) may follow up at a later date asking for receipts of all of the medical expenses you claimed.

For people claiming the gluten free-tax credit, you may be asked to provide all food purchase receipts of gluten free products.

Other Medical Expenses Credit Claims

For people living with a disability or their families (who are able to claim them as dependants), you may be eligible for additional medical expense tax credits: (1) Refundable medical expense supplement and (2) Disability supports deduction.

These claims can made together, so long as you meet the criteria for both.

Refundable medical expense supplement

Depending on your income you may be able to claim a credit of up to \$1,203 through the refundable medical expenses supplement.

This is a refundable tax credit that can reduce the taxes you owe to below zero and allow you to receive a tax refund. If you qualify for a refundable credit and the amount of the credit is larger than the tax you owe, you will receive a refund for the difference.

More information on eligibility can be accessed [here](#).



Calculate the Refundable Tax Credit

If you are eligible, you would first calculate the refundable amount you can claim on the line 452 chart of the [federal worksheet](#).



Input Refundable Tax Credit

After finding the total amount, you would input the total amount from the line 452 chart of the federal worksheet to line 452 of the [T1 Income Tax and Benefit Return form](#).



Disability Supports Deduction

The person living with a disability may be able to claim some medical expenses as a disability supports deduction. This amount would then be subtracted from their net income, reducing the amount of taxable income. More information can be accessed [here](#).

They can make the claim for disability related medical expenses either in the general Medical Expenses Credit claim (line 330 of Schedule 1) or they can claim the Disability Support Deduction (line 215).

They also can split the claim between these two lines as long as the total of the amounts claimed is not more than the expenses paid.

*To qualify for the Disability Supports Deduction, you must have access to the Disability Tax Credit.

Only the individual living with the disability can claim the Disability Supports Deduction - it cannot be transferred to family members



Calculate the Disability Supports Deduction

First, you would use the [Disability Supports Deduction Form](#) to calculate the total amount that can be claimed.



Add the Disability Supports Deduction (T1 Form)

After finding the total amount that can be claimed, you would add the total amount from [Disability Supports Deduction Form](#) onto line 215 of the [T1 Income Tax and Benefit Return form](#).





Calculate Taxes

Depending on the claims you made, you would then calculate the total amounts on the T1 General Income Tax and Benefit Return form and Schedule 1.



File Income Taxes Every Year

To continue accessing the MEC it is important that income taxes are submitted every year and you make the Medical Expenses Tax claim every year you're eligible.