

Flexible Spending Accounts - Benefits Allowable through Health FSAs

A health FSA can be used to reimburse medical and dental expenses that qualify under Section 213 of the tax code. Medical expenses that are not deductible under Section 213 may not be reimbursed by a health FSA.

“Medical care” expenses as defined by Section 213 include amounts paid for the diagnosis, treatment, or prevention of disease, and for treatments affecting any part or function of the body. The expenses must be to alleviate or prevent a physical defect or illness. Expenses for solely cosmetic reasons generally are not expenses for medical care. Examples include face lifts, hair transplants, and hair removal (electrolysis). Also, expenses that are merely beneficial to one’s general health (for example, vacations) are not expenses for medical care.

List of popular expenses –Following is an alphabetical list of items that are encountered frequently by sponsors of FSAs. Some of these items may be reimbursed, and some may not; each item is followed by a brief note indicating which category the item falls into.

Abortion – Medical expenses associated with a legal abortion are reimbursable.

Acupuncture – Medical expenses paid for acupuncture are reimbursable.

Air filter – If prescribed to treat a specific medical condition, this expense is reimbursable.

Also see **Personal use items**.

Alcoholism and drug abuse – Medical expenses paid to a treatment center for alcohol or drug abuse are reimbursable. This includes meals and lodging provided by the center during treatment.

Alternative medicine – See **Naturopathy**.

Ambulance – Medical expenses paid for ambulance service are reimbursable.

Artificial limb – Medical expenses paid for an artificial limb are reimbursable.

Artificial teeth – See **Medical aids**.

Aspirin – Even if prescribed by a physician, aspirin is not reimbursable.

Attendant – See **Nursing services**.

Autoette – See **Wheelchair**.

Automobile – See **Car**.

Babysitting and child care – These expenses are not reimbursable under a health FSA, even if the care allows a parent to get medical care. Also see

Dependent care expenses.

Birth control pills and devices – Medical expenses paid for birth control pills and devices prescribed by a doctor are reimbursable.

Braille books and magazines – The amount by which the cost of Braille books and magazines for use by a visually impaired person exceeds the price for regular books and magazines is reimbursable.

Breast augmentation – Expenses related to breast augmentation (such as implants or injections) are not reimbursable because the procedure is cosmetic in nature. However, medical costs related to the removal of breast implants that are defective or are causing a medical problem are reimbursable.

Breast pump – Even if prescribed, a breast pump used for the convenience of the mother is not reimbursable. However, a breast pump may be reimbursable if prescribed to alleviate a specific medical condition affecting either the mother (such as a cyst, for example) or the child (such as an ailment that prevents nursing).

Breast reduction – Medical expenses related to breast reduction surgery are reimbursable only if a physician substantiates that the procedure is medically necessary and not for cosmetic purposes (that is, to prevent or treat an illness or disease).

Capital expenses – If their main purpose is medical care, capital expenses paid for special equipment installed in a participant’s home or for improvements to the home are reimbursable. For further details, see discussion under the heading, “Capital expenses,” below.

Car – Medical expenses are reimbursable for special hand controls and other special equipment installed in a car for the use of a person with disabilities. Also, the amount by which the cost of a car specially designed to hold a wheelchair exceeds the cost of a regular car is a reimbursable medical expense. However, the cost of operating a specially equipped car is not reimbursable (see **Transportation**).

Chair – The cost of a reclining chair purchased on the advice of a physician to alleviate a heart, back or other condition is reimbursable.

Childcare – See **Dependent care**.

Childbirth classes – Expenses for childbirth classes are reimbursable, but are limited to expenses incurred by the mother-to-be. Expenses incurred by a “coach—even if that is the father-to-be—are not reimbursable. To qualify as medical care, the classes must address specific medical issues, such as labor, delivery procedures, breathing techniques and nursing.

Chiropractor – Expenses paid to a chiropractor for medical care are reimbursable.

Christian Science practitioners – Medical expenses paid to Christian Science practitioners are reimbursable.

Church of Scientology – See **Scientology**.

Clinic – Medical expenses for treatment at a health clinic are reimbursable.

Coinsurance amounts – Medical coinsurance amounts and deductibles are reimbursable.

Contact lenses – See **Vision care**.

Cosmetic surgery – Medical expenses for cosmetic surgery are reimbursable if the surgery is necessary to improve a deformity arising from, or directly related to, a congenital abnormality, a personal injury resulting from an accident or trauma, or a disfiguring disease. However, medical expenses paid for other cosmetic surgery are not deductible medical expenses under Code Section 213, and thus are not reimbursable by a health FSA. This applies to any procedure that is directed at improving the patient’s appearance and does not meaningfully promote the proper function of the body or prevent or treat illness or disease. For example, face lifts, hair transplants, hair removal (electrolysis) and liposuction generally are not deductible. If there is a concern that a medical or dental surgery could be considered cosmetic, a doctor’s certification should be obtained explaining how the procedure meaningfully promotes the proper function of the body or prevents or treats an illness or disease. This will help to prove that the claim is reimbursable.

Crutches – Medical expenses paid to buy or rent crutches are reimbursable.

Dancing lessons, swimming lessons, etc. – Dancing lessons, swimming lessons, etc., are not reimbursable even if they are recommended by a doctor.

Day care – See **Dependent care**.

Deductibles – Medical insurance deductibles and coinsurance amounts under the employer’s plan are reimbursable.

Dental treatment – Medical expenses for dental treatment are reimbursable, such as x-rays, fillings, braces, extractions, dentures, etc. Also see **Cosmetic surgery**.

Dependent care expenses – Dependent care expenses are not reimbursable under a health FSA, But may be reimbursable under a dependent care FSA.

Diaper service – Payments for diapers or diaper services are not reimbursable unless they are needed to relieve the effects of a particular disease.

Diets – See **Special foods**.

Disability – See **Braille books and magazines, Car, Guide dog, Learning disability, Lifetime care, Mentally retarded, Personal use items, Schools, Television, Therapy, Transportation, Wheel- chair**. Also see discussion under the heading “Capital expenses,” below.

Drugs – See **Medicines**.

Drug addiction – See **Alcoholism**.

Ear piercing – Expenses for ear piercing are not reimbursable.

Electrolysis or hair removal – See **Cosmetic surgery**.

Employment-related expenses – Employment-related expenses such as employment physicals are not reimbursable. (Note, however, that physical exams that are not employment-related are reimbursable. See **Physical exams**).

Employment taxes – See **Nursing services**.

Exercise programs – Unless prescribed by a physician to treat a specific medical condition, exercise programs are related to general health and are not reimbursable.

Eyeglasses – See **Vision care**.

Face lifts – See **Cosmetic surgery**.

Fertility - Medical expenses related to the treatment of infertility, including *in vitro* fertilization, are reimbursable.

Fitness programs – Fitness programs or physical therapy for general health are not reimbursable.

Food – See **Special foods**.

Founder’s fee – See **Lifetime care**.

Funeral expenses – Expenses for funerals are not reimbursable.

Group medical insurance – See **Insurance premiums**.

Guide dog or other animal – The cost of a guide dog or other animal used by the visually impaired or hearing impaired is reimbursable. Costs associated with a dog or other animal trained to assist persons with other physical disabilities are also reimbursable, as are amounts paid for the care of these specially trained animals.

Hair transplant – See **Cosmetic surgery**.

Health club dues – Health club dues, YMCA dues, or amounts paid for steam baths for general health or to relieve physical or mental discomfort not related to a particular medical condition are not reimbursable.

Healthy baby care – See **Nursing services**.

Hearing aids – Medical expenses for a hearing aid and batteries are reimbursable.

Herbal medicines – See **Naturopathy**.

Hospital – Expenses incurred as a hospital in-patient or out-patient for laboratory, surgical and diagnostic services qualify as medical expenses.

Hot tub – See **Capital expenses**.

Household help – The cost of household help, even if recommended by a doctor, is prohibited. However, certain expenses paid to an attendant providing nursing-type services are reimbursable (see

Nursing services).

Human guide – Expenses for a human guide—to take a blind child to school, for example—are reimbursable. Also see **Guide dog**.

Impotence or sexual inadequacy – Medical expenses related to the treatment of impotence are

Reimbursable if substantiated by a physician.

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In vitro fertilization – See **Fertility**.

Infertility – See **Fertility**.

Insulin – The cost of insulin is reimbursable.

In-patient meals – See **Lodging and meals**.

Insurance premiums – Premiums for any health insurance other than the employer's, including health plans maintained by the employer of an employee's spouse or dependent, are not reimbursable.

Laboratory fees – Laboratory fees that are part of medical care are reimbursable.

Laetrile – Laetrile, even if prescribed by a doctor, is *not* reimbursable.

LASIK – See **Radial keratotomy**.

Lead-based paint removal – The cost of removing lead-based paints from surfaces in a home to prevent a child who has (or has had) lead poisoning from eating the paint are reimbursable. These surfaces must be in poor repair (peeling or cracking) or within the child's reach. The cost of repainting the scraped area, however, is not reimbursable.

Learning disability – Tuition payments to a special school for a child who has several learning disabilities caused by mental or physical impairments, including nervous system disorders, and are reimbursable. A doctor must recommend that the child attend the school. See **Schools**. Also, tutoring fees paid on a doctor's recommendation for a child's tutoring by a teacher who is specially trained and qualified to work with children who have severe learning disabilities are reimbursable.

Legal fees - Legal fees paid to authorize treatment for mental illness are reimbursable. However, any part of a legal fee that is a management fee—for example, a guardianship or estate management fee—is not reimbursable.

Licensing requirement – Neither the tax code nor IRS regulations require a plan participant to determine whether a provider is qualified, authorized under state law or licensed to practice before using his/her services. In Revenue ruling 63-91, the IRS ruled that: “(Amounts paid for medical services rendered by practitioners, such as chiropractors, psychotherapists, and others rendering similar type services, constitute expenses for ‘medical care’ within the provisions of section 213 of the Code, even though the practitioners who perform the services are not required by law to be, or are not (even though required by law) licensed, certified, or otherwise qualified to perform such services.” The main issue is the nature of the treatment, not the license held by the practitioner. Thus, services provided by a range of

organizations and individuals may be reimbursable, including care provided by hospitals, medical doctors, dentists, eye doctors, chiropractors, nurses, osteopaths, podiatrists, psychiatrists, psychologists, physical therapists, acupuncturists, psychoanalysts and others.

Life insurance premiums – Life insurance premiums are not reimbursable because they would constitute prohibited deferred compensation.

Lifetime care – Part of a life-care fee or “founder's fee” paid either monthly or as a lump sum under an agreement with a retirement home is reimbursable if it is allocable to medical care. The agreement must require a specified fee payment as a condition for the home's promise to provide lifetime care that includes medical care. Also, advance payments to a private institution for the lifetime care, treatment and training of an employee's physically or mentally impaired dependent upon the employee's death or inability to provide care are reimbursable. The payments must be a condition for the institution's future acceptance of the dependent and must not be refundable.

Liposuction – See **Cosmetic surgery**.

Lodging and meals – The cost of lodging and meals at a hospital or similar institution are reimbursable if the employee's main reason for being there is to receive medical care. (Also see **Nursing home**). The cost of lodging not provided in a hospital or similar institution while an employee is away from home is reimbursable if four requirements are met: (1) the lodging is primarily for and essential to medical care; (2) medical care is provided by a doctor in a licensed hospital or in a medical care facility related to, or the equivalent of, a licensed hospital; (3) the lodging is not lavish or extravagant under the circumstances; and (4) there is no significant element of personal pleasure, recreation or vacation in the travel away from home.

The reimbursable amount cannot exceed \$50 for each night for each person. Lodging is included for a person for whom transportation expenses are a medical expense because that person is traveling with the person receiving the medical care. For example, if a parent is traveling with a sick child, up to \$100 per night is reimbursable as a medical expense for lodging.

Meals and lodging away from home for medical treatment that is not received at a medical facility, or for the relief of a specific condition, are not reimbursable even if the trip is made on the advice of a doctor.

Long-term care insurance premiums – Long-term care insurance premiums are not reimbursable under a medical FSA.

Marijuana – Marijuana, even if prescribed for medicinal purposes, is not a reimbursable expense.

Marriage counseling – Expenses for marriage- counseling services do not qualify as medical expenses. However, sexual inadequacy or incompatibility treatment is reimbursable if the treatment is provided by a psychiatrist.

Maternity clothes – Expenses for maternity clothes are not reimbursable.

Massage – Fees paid for massages are not reimbursable unless prescribed and substantiated by a physician to treat a physical defect or illness.

Mattresses – Mattresses and mattress boards for the treatment of arthritis are reimbursable.

Meals - See **Lodging and meals**.

Medical alert devices – Personal emergency transmitters worn as a bracelet or necklace are not reimbursable.

Medical aids – Medical aids such as false teeth, hearing aids, orthopedic shoes, crutches and elastic hosiery are reimbursable.

Medical information plan – Amounts paid to a plan that keeps medical information so that it can be retrieved from a computer data bank for medical care are reimbursable.

Medical savings accounts (MSAs) – MSA's cannot be offered as part of a flex plan or FSA.

Medical services – Only legal medical services are reimbursable. Amounts paid for illegal operations or treatments, regardless of whether they are rendered by licensed or unlicensed practitioners, are not reimbursable.

Medicare Part A – The tax paid for Medicare Part A is not reimbursable.

Medicare Part B – Premiums paid for Medicare Part B are not reimbursable.

Medicines – Amounts paid for prescribed medicines and drugs are reimbursable. A prescribed drug is one which requires a prescription by a doctor for its use by an individual. The cost of insulin is also reimbursable. Over-the-counter medicines and drugs are *not* reimbursable, even if prescribed by a physician.

Mentally retarded, special home for – The cost of keeping a mentally retarded person in a special home (not the home of a relative) on the recommendation of a psychiatrist to help the person adjust from life in a mental hospital to community living is reimbursable.

Naturopathy – The issue of whether naturopathic expenses are reimbursable is problematic. (Naturopathy is the practice of treating a medical condition with “natural” methods, such as processed plant matter, for example). There is no directly applicable official guidance on whether such expenses should be reimbursed under a health FSA, and scant (and contradictory) guidance that is indirectly applicable. Two questions are at the heart of this issue:

- *Are naturopathic treatments “medicine”?* The answer to this question is: No. Section 213(b)

Limits the definition of “medicine or drugs” to those prescribed by a physician, and cross-references the definition of “physician” found in the Social Security Act (SSA). Naturopaths are not included in the SSA definition’s list of approved medical professionals. Thus, naturopathic treatments prescribed by a naturopath are not reimbursable. (Presumably, a naturopathic treatment prescribed by a SSA-approved physician, such as an M.D., would be reimbursable).

If a prescribed naturopathic treatment (not over-the-counter) were deemed to be dietary in nature, rather than medicinal (such as a natural dietary supplement, for example), then any reimbursable expense would be limited to the amount in excess of the cost of a normal diet. (See **Special foods**).

- *Is naturopathy “medical care”?* Although the answer to this question is unclear and subject to debate, a conservative interpretation is: No. As noted above, the IRS has not issued any guidance on whether naturopathy falls under the Section 213 definition of medical care. Often in such situations one can look to other sources of related or precedential guidance for an answer; in this instance, four points are relevant.

First, naturopathy is illegal in several states. For plan sponsors in those states, this does provide a definitive answer, since Section 213 specifically excludes treatments that are illegal. Second, naturopathy is not covered by Medicare. Third, decisions over the years by the U.S. Tax Court on the deductibility of naturopathic or similar expenses (such as Native American tribal practices, for example) are conflicting to the point of being unhelpful. And fourth, the IRS often challenges deductions for non-traditional medical treatment.

Nicotine patches and gum – Even if prescribed, over-the-counter drugs to help stop smoking are not reimbursable. (Also see **Smoking cessation programs**).

Nursing home – The cost of medical care in a nursing home or for the aged for an employee, or for an employee’s spouse or dependent, is reimbursable. This includes the cost of meals and lodging in the home if the main reason for being there is to get medical care.

Nursing services – Wages and other amounts paid for nursing services are reimbursable. Services need not be performed by a nurse as long as the services are of a kind generally performed by a nurse. This includes services connected with caring for the patient’s condition, such as giving medication or changing dressings, as well as bathing and grooming the patient.

Only the amount spent for nursing services is reimbursable. If the attendant also provides personal and household services, these amounts must be divided between the time spent performing household and personal services and the time spent on nursing services.

Meals – Amounts paid for an attendant’s meals are also reimbursable. This cost may be calculated by dividing a household’s total food expenses by the number of household members to find the cost of the attendant’s wages between nursing services and all other services (see above).

Upkeep – Additional amounts paid for household upkeep because of an attendant are also reimbursable. This includes extra rent or utilities paid because of having to move to a larger apartment to provide space for an attendant.

Infant care – Nursing or babysitting services for a normal, healthy infant are not reimbursable.

Social Security, unemployment (FUTA) and Medicare taxes paid for a nurse, attendant or other person who provides medical care are reimbursable.

Nutrition – See **Special foods**.

Optometrist – See **Vision care**.

Orthodontia – Expenses for orthodontic care are generally reimbursable, except care for cosmetic purposes. See **Cosmetic surgery**.

Orthopedic shoes – See **Medical aids**.

Organ donor – See **Transplants**.

Osteopath – Osteopathic expenses are reimbursable.

Over-the-counter drugs/medications – Certain over the counter drugs are now reimbursable.

Patterning exercises – See **Therapy**.

Personal use items – Items that are ordinarily used for personal, living and family purposes are not reimbursable unless they are used primarily to prevent or alleviate a physical or mental defect or illness. For example, the cost of a wig purchase at the advice of a physician for mental health of a patient who has lost all of his or her hair from disease is reimbursable.

If an item purchased in a special form primarily to alleviate a physical defect is one that in normal form is ordinarily used for personal, living and family purposes, the cost of the special form in excess of the cost of the normal form is reimbursable.

Phone equipment - See **Telephone**.

Physical exams – Physical exams are generally reimbursable, except for employment-related physicals. See **Employment-related expenses**.

Pre-existing conditions – Medical expenses not covered because of the plan’s pre-existing condition limitation are reimbursable.

Pregnancy test – The cost of an over-the-counter pregnancy test is not reimbursable. A pregnancy test performed by a physician, however, is reimbursable.

Prescription drugs – See **Medicines**.

Private hospital room – The extra cost of a private hospital room is reimbursable.

PRK (photorefractive keratectomy) See **Radial keratotomy**.

Prosthesis – See **Artificial limb**.

Psychiatric care – Expenses for psychiatric care are reimbursable. These expenses include the cost of supporting a mentally ill dependent at a specially equipped medical center where the dependent receives medical care. Also see **Psychoanalysis** and **Transportation**.

Psychoanalysis – Expenses for psychoanalysis are reimbursable.

Psychologist – Expenses for psychological care are reimbursable.

Radial keratotomy – According to the IRS, radial keratotomy (RK) is a deductible expense under Code Section 213 and thus reimbursable under a medical FSA.

Reasonable and customary charges, amounts in excess of - Medical expenses in excess of the plan’s reasonable and customary charges are reimbursable.

Resort - See **Spa and resort**.

Retin-A – Reimbursable when prescribed by a physician to treat a specific medical condition (such as acne), but not for cosmetic purposes (such as wrinkles).

Rogaine – Reimbursable when prescribed by a physician for a specific medical condition (such as hypertension), but not for cosmetic purposes (that is, to stimulate hair growth).

Schools, special – Expenses paid to a special school for a mentally impaired or physically disabled person are reimbursable if the main reason for using the school is its resources for treating the disability. This includes the cost of a school that:

- Teaches Braille to a visually impaired child;
- Teaches lip-reading to a hearing-impaired child; or
- Provides remedial language training to correct a condition caused by a birth defect.

The cost of meals, lodging and ordinary education supplied by a special school is reimbursable only if the main reason for using the school is its resources for treating the mental or physical disability. The cost of sending a non-disabled “problem child” to a special school for benefits the child may get from the course of study and disciplinary methods is not reimbursable.

Scientology “audits” – Amounts paid to the Church of Scientology for “audits” do not qualify as expenses for medical care.

Sexual counseling – Expenses for counseling regarding sexual inadequacy or incompatibility are reimbursable if the counseling is provided to a husband and/or wife by a psychiatrist.

Smoking cessation program – The cost of a stop-smoking program is reimbursable. Stop-smoking drugs prescribed by a physician are also reimbursable, but nonprescription drugs, such as nicotine patches or gum, are not reimbursable (even if prescribed by a physician).

Spa or resort – Although a visit to a spa or resort may be prescribed by a physician for medical treatment, only the costs of the medical services provided are reimbursable, not the cost of transportation (See **Transportation and Trips**).

Special foods – The costs of special foods and/or beverages – even if prescribed – that substitute for other foods or beverages which a person would normally consume and which satisfy nutritional requirements (such as the consumption of bananas for potassium, for example) are not deductible. However, prescribed special foods or beverages are reimbursable if they are consumed primarily to alleviate or treat an illness or disease, and not for nutritional purposes. Special foods and beverages are reimbursable only to the extent that their cost is greater than the cost of the commonly available version of the same product.

Sterilization – The cost of a legal sterilization (a legally performed operation to make a person unable to have children) is reimbursable.

Substance abuse – See **Alcoholism and drug abuse**.

Sunglasses – Only prescription sunglasses are reimbursable.

Swimming lessons – See **Dancing lessons**.

Taxes – Sales and service taxes imposed on qualified medical care or products are reimbursable.

Teeth guards – These devices, prescribed to treat the grinding of teeth while sleeping, are reimbursable. Guards designed for sports use are not reimbursable.

Teeth whitening – These expenses are cosmetic and are not reimbursable.

Telephone – The costs of purchasing and repairing special telephone equipment that lets a hearing-impaired person communicate over a regular telephone are reimbursable.

Television – The cost of equipment that displays the audio part of TV programs as subtitles for the hearing-impaired is reimbursable. This may include an adapter that attaches to a regular TV or the cost of a specially equipped TV in excess of the cost of the same model regular TV set.

Therapy – Amounts paid for therapy received as medical treatment are reimbursable. Payments made to an individual for special exercises administered to a mentally retarded child are also reimbursable. These so-called “patterning” exercises consist mainly of coordinated physical manipulation of the child’s arms and legs to imitate crawling and other normal movements. (Also see **Fitness programs**).

Transplants – Payments for surgical, hospital, laboratory and transportation expenses for a prospective or actual donor of a kidney or other organ are reimbursable.

Transportation – Amounts paid for transportation primarily for, and essential to, medical care are reimbursable (except as provided below). These include:

- Bus, taxi, train or plane fare, or ambulance service;
- Actual care expenses, such as gas and oil (but not expenses for general repair, maintenance, depreciation and insurance);
- Parking fees and tolls;
- Transportation expenses of a parent who must accompany a child who needs medical care;
- Transportation expenses of a nurse or other person who can give injections, medications or other treatment required by a patient who is traveling to get medical care and is unable to travel alone; and
- Transportation expenses for regular visits to see a mentally ill dependent, if these visits are recommended as a part of treatment.

Instead of actual expenses, it is acceptable to use a flat rate of 10 cents per mile for each mile a car is used for medical purposes. The cost of tolls and parking may be added to this amount.

Reimbursable expenses do not include:

- Transportation expenses to and from work, even if a medical condition requires an unusual means of transportation; or
- Transportation expenses incurred if, for non-medical reasons, an employee chooses to travel to another location (or to a resort or spa) for an operation or other medical care prescribed by a doctor.

If a participant drives himself or herself to the location for the medical treatment, the expense is not reimbursable because the claims substantiation rules can not be satisfied.

Trips – Amounts paid for transportation to another location, if the trip is primarily for an essential to receiving medical services, are reimbursable. (Also see **Lodging and meals**). A trip or vacation taken for a change in environment, improvement of morale or general improvement of health, is not reimbursable, even if it taken at the advice of a doctor. (See **Spa or resort**).

Tuition – Charges for medical care included in the tuition of a college or private school are reimbursable if the charges are separately stated in the tuition bill. (Also see **Learning disability** and **Schools, special**).

Tutors’ fees – See **Learning disability**.

Vacation – See **Trips**.

Vaccines – Expenses for vaccines are reimbursable.

Vasectomy – Medical expenses related to a vasectomy are reimbursable.

Viagra – If prescribed to treat impotence as a specific medical condition, the cost of Viagra is reimbursable.

Vision care – Optometric services and medical expenses for eyeglasses and contact lenses needed for medical reasons are reimbursable. Eye exams and expenses for contact lens solutions are also reimbursable. However, premiums for contact lens replacement insurance are not reimbursable. (Also see **Radial keratotomy**).

Vitamins – Only expenses for vitamins prescribed by a physician that are only available by prescription and are to treat a specific medical condition are reimbursable.

Wage continuation policies – Premiums paid under wage continuation policies are not reimbursable because they could provide benefits that would be received in a subsequent plan year, resulting in prohibited deferred compensation.

Weight loss program – The cost of a weight loss program for general health is not reimbursable even if a doctor prescribes the program. However, if attendance at a weight loss program is prescribed by a physician to treat a specific illness (e.g. heart disease), the expense should be reimbursable. The physician should substantiate the necessity of this treatment.

Well baby care – See **Nursing services**.

Wheelchair – Amounts paid for an autoette or a wheelchair used mainly for the relief of sickness or disability, and not just to provide transportation to and from work, are reimbursable. The cost of operating and maintaining the autoette or wheelchair is also reimbursable.

Wigs – See **Personal use items**.

X-ray – Amounts paid for X-rays taken for medical reasons are reimbursable.