



# Medical Assistance Spenddown Overview

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# What is a Medical Assistance (MA) spenddown?

It helps Minnesotans who exceed the Medical Assistance income limit who have significant medical expenses qualify for MA to pay for some of their medical expenses.



# Medical Assistance spenddown example

Joe, under age 65, has a disability, was hospitalized and incurred a \$10,000 hospital bill that he seeks assistance in paying.



## 1. Does Joe meet the MA income limit?

- Joe's income: \$1,500/month  
MA income standard: \$1,074/month  
Joe exceeds the income limit for MA by \$426/month

## 2. Determine Joe's spenddown amount

- Joe's income: \$1,500/month  
MA spenddown standard: \$870/month  
Joe's spenddown amount: \$630

## 3. Determine if Joe has medical expenses to meet the spenddown amount

- Because of his \$10,000 hospital bill, Joe is able to meet his \$630 spenddown amount.

MA coverage applies with the first dollar of expenses incurred after the spenddown is met.

# Income and spenddown standards

## Different populations have different MA income and spenddown standards

MA income limit for people age 65 or older, blind or who have a disability:

- 100% Federal Poverty Guidelines (FPG):  
\$1,074/month

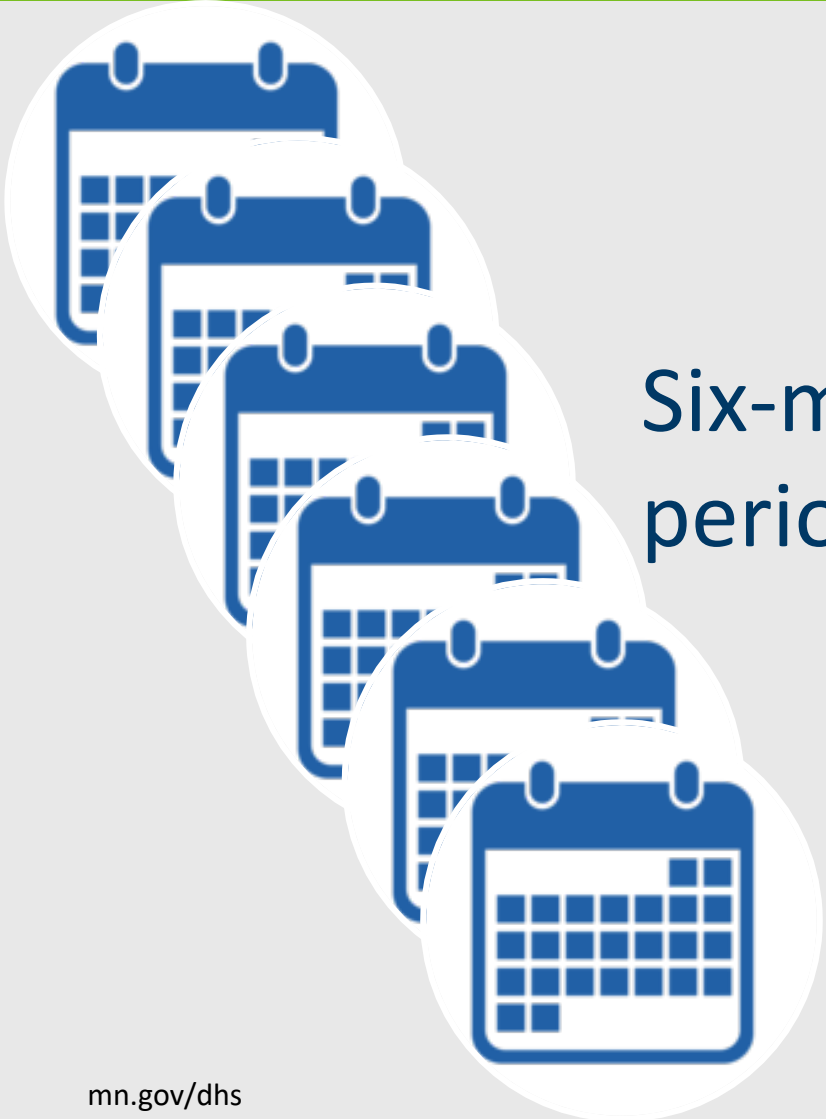
MA spenddown standard for people age 65 or older, blind or who have a disability:

- 81% FPG: \$870/month
- This spenddown standard changes to 100% FPG July 1, 2022 (see DHS Bulletin 22-21-02)

# Spenddown Types



One-month period



Six-month period

# Thank You

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