



## INCOME TAX DEDUCTIONS FOR MEDICAL EXPENSES IN SELECT STATES

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### ISSUE

Do California, Connecticut, Florida, Massachusetts, New York, and North Carolina have state income tax deductions for medical expenses and, if so, what are they?

### MEDICAL EXPENSE DEDUCTIONS

Four of the six states allow a deduction for qualified medical expenses (California, Massachusetts, New York, and North Carolina), one does not allow a deduction (Connecticut), and one does not have a state income tax (Florida). As it shows, all four states either match or base their deductions on the federal deduction for medical expenses.

Generally, when calculating federal taxable income, taxpayers may deduct eligible, unreimbursed medical and dental expenses that exceed 10% of their adjusted gross income (AGI), or 7.5% of AGI if the taxpayer or his or her spouse is 65 or older. The 7.5% threshold for seniors rises to 10% after December 31, 2016 ([IRS Publication 502](#)).

Table 1 shows the medical expense deduction the four states allowed for the 2015 tax year.

**Table 1: Medical Expense Deductions in Select States**

<i>State</i>	<i>Medical Expense Deduction</i>
California	Expenses that exceed 7.5% of federal AGI
Massachusetts	Same as federal
New York	Same as federal except one must subtract amount paid for long-term care insurance premiums from medical expense total
North Carolina	Same as federal

Source: States' 2015 tax form instructions

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