

A Animal Assistants

REVISION 35
(04/01/15 - 05/31/15)

The costs to secure and maintain professionally trained service dogs for assisting participants with a disability in performing normal living activities are ALLOWABLE for NA ONLY.

Animal assistants include, but are not limited to the following:

- Seeing-eye dogs
- Hearing-ear dogs

NOTE This does not include watchdogs used only for protection.

A service animal is defined as a dog that is individually trained to do work or perform tasks for people with disabilities. To determine if the service animal meets the requirements ask the customer to provide a statement with ONLY the following two questions:

- Is the service animal required because of a disability
- What work or task has the dog been trained to perform

Staff CANNOT do any of the following:

- Ask the person's disability
- Require medical documentation
- Require a special identification card or training documentation for the dog
- Ask that the dog demonstrate its ability to perform the work or task

It is NOT a requirement that a physician or medical professional prescribe the need for the animal when the participant meets the [NA disability requirements](#).

Maintenance costs include the following:

- Purchase of animal food
- Veterinary services
- Kennel fees
- Training

NOTE Breeding and whelping fees are not deductible.

Key the expense on EXPC using the ME Expense Code.