

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES

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April 8, 1998



TO All County Welfare Directors
All County Administrative Officers
All County Medi-Cal Program Specialists/Liaisons
All County MEDS Coordinators
All County QMB/SLMB Coordinators

Letter No.: 98-15

UPDATE OF THE TWO NEW SPECIFIED LOW-INCOME MEDICARE BENEFICIARY
(SLMB) PROGRAMS, QUALIFYING INDIVIDUALS (QI) QI-1 AND QI-2

Ref.: All County Welfare Directors Letter (ACWDL) No.: 97-45

On November 17, 1997, we advised counties in ACWDL 97-45 of two new QI programs that are being developed. Even though the QI-1 and QI-2 programs are not yet implemented, this letter is to ensure that counties allow those wishing to apply for these programs now to do so. The counties are to maintain a list with the date and name of the potential beneficiaries and send each of them a CA 1 or a SAWS 1 application.

The Qualifying Individual-1 program (QI-1) covers the payment of Medicare Part B premiums from a special federal QI allocation for those otherwise **ineligible for Medi-Cal** in that same month and who would be a SLMB except their income is between 120 percent and up to but not including 135 percent of the federal poverty level. At the present time, QI-1 income ranges from \$809 up to \$908 (**but not including \$908**). These federal poverty levels are based on the rates from April 1, 1997 through March 31, 1998. Until such time as the new rates are effective on April 1, 1998, do not count the 2.1 percent cost of living adjustment (COLA) that became effective January 1, 1998 in the SLMB, QI-1 and QI-2 budget calculation.

The QI-2 program covers a portion of the Medicare Part B premium which represents the cost of shifting home health from Medicare Part A to Part B. These individuals would be SLMB eligible except their income is between 135 percent and up to but not including 175 percent of poverty, \$908 up to \$1,171, (**but not including \$1,171**). Claiming from the QI fund is precluded in any month in which the QI-1/QI-2 individual is eligible for a different Medi-Cal program.

Tentatively, it has been determined that the QI-2 programs will provide a \$1.07 a month refund which will be reimbursed retroactively once a year to beneficiaries who pay their own Medicare Part B premiums. This automatic process is to being developed.

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Page 2

All three programs, the SLMB, QI-1 and QI-2 programs have resource limitations that are \$4,000 for a single person and \$6,000 for a couple. These limitations also cover the SLMB, 120 percent program. In fact, the SLMB 120 percent rate is from \$678 up to \$809 (**but not including \$809**). Therefore, all three SLMB programs: 8C (120 percent); 8D (135 percent); and 8E (175 percent) will follow the same budget procedures.

In addition to the information listed above, this ACWDL is to advise county eligibility workers that the Social Security Administration (SSA) letters that were sent to recipients notifying them of their 2.1 percent COLA increase in their 1998 SSA Title II grant may also have included a reference to the new SLMB QI-1 or QI-2 programs. The SSA letter advised the recipient to apply for these programs which are not as yet operational.

It is very important that individuals who wish to apply for QI-1 or QI-2 be able to do so. Counties should give/send a SAWS 1/CA 1 to anyone asking about this program. If such interested individuals call, counties should keep a record of their name to date stamp their date of potential eligibility in addition to sending them the SAWS 1/CA 1. Counties will need to hold these forms or flag their case until QI-1/QI-2 implementing instructions are issued.

Currently, modified forms and procedures are being developed. They will be distributed as soon as they are completed and reproduced. We will address in these procedures how to handle QI-1's or QI-2's who may be eligible for retroactive benefits back to January 1, 1998, or to some other previous month of eligibility when the programs are operational. We are also exploring the possible development of a simplified mail-in form that could also be disseminated by grass roots senior agencies and to all the Department of Aging, Health Insurance Counseling Advocacy Programs (HICAP).

The SLMB, QI-1, and QI-2 1998 Federal Poverty Level Chart which is effective April 1, 1998 is enclosed. Also, if you need further SLMB, QI-1 or QI-2 information, please contact Sylvia Finberg of my staff at (916) 657-0080.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY

Joshep A. Kelly, Chief
Medi-Cal Eligibility Branch

Enclosure

1998 POVERTY LEVEL CHART FOR 135% AND 175% PROGRAMS

Persons	MN PROGRAM MMNL(\$)	OMB 100% PROGRAM		SLMB 120% PROGRAM		Q1 135% PROGRAM		Q2 175% PROGRAM				
		Mthly	Annual	Mthly	Mthly + \$20	Annual	Mthly	Mthly + \$20	Annual			
1	\$ 600	\$ 671	\$ 8,050	\$ 805	\$ 825	\$ 9,660	\$ 906	\$ 926	\$ 10,868	\$ 1,174	\$ 1,194	\$ 14,088
2	\$ 750	\$ 905	\$ 10,850	\$ 1,085	\$ 1,105	\$ 13,020	\$ 1,221	\$ 1,241	\$ 14,648	\$ 1,583	\$ 1,603	\$ 18,988
2 Adults	\$ 934	\$ 905	\$ 10,850	\$ 1,085	\$ 1,105	\$ 13,020	\$ 1,221	\$ 1,241	\$ 14,648	\$ 1,583	\$ 1,603	\$ 18,988
3	\$ 934	\$ 1,138	\$ 13,650	\$ 1,365	\$ 1,385	\$ 16,380	\$ 1,536	\$ 1,556	\$ 18,428	\$ 1,991	\$ 2,011	\$ 23,888
4	\$ 1,100	\$ 1,371	\$ 16,450	\$ 1,645	\$ 1,665	\$ 19,740	\$ 1,851	\$ 1,871	\$ 22,208	\$ 2,399	\$ 2,419	\$ 28,788
5	\$ 1,259	\$ 1,605	\$ 19,250	\$ 1,925	\$ 1,945	\$ 23,100	\$ 2,166	\$ 2,186	\$ 25,988	\$ 2,808	\$ 2,828	\$ 33,688
6	\$ 1,417	\$ 1,838	\$ 22,050	\$ 2,205	\$ 2,225	\$ 26,460	\$ 2,481	\$ 2,501	\$ 29,768	\$ 3,216	\$ 3,236	\$ 38,588
7	\$ 1,550	\$ 2,071	\$ 24,850	\$ 2,485	\$ 2,505	\$ 29,820	\$ 2,796	\$ 2,816	\$ 33,548	\$ 3,624	\$ 3,644	\$ 43,488
8	\$ 1,692	\$ 2,305	\$ 27,650	\$ 2,765	\$ 2,785	\$ 33,180	\$ 3,111	\$ 3,131	\$ 37,328	\$ 4,033	\$ 4,053	\$ 48,388
9	\$ 1,825	\$ 2,538	\$ 30,450	\$ 3,045	\$ 3,065	\$ 36,540	\$ 3,426	\$ 3,446	\$ 41,108	\$ 4,441	\$ 4,461	\$ 53,288
10	\$ 1,959	\$ 2,771	\$ 33,250	\$ 3,325	\$ 3,345	\$ 39,900	\$ 3,741	\$ 3,761	\$ 44,888	\$ 4,849	\$ 4,869	\$ 58,188
For each additional member add:		\$ 234	\$ 2,800	\$ 280	\$ 300	\$ 3,360	\$ 315	\$ 315	\$ 3,780	\$ 409	\$ 409	\$ 4,900