STATE OF CALIFORNIA—HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY

GRAY DAVIS, *Governor*

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December 20, 1999

TO: All County Welfare Directors
All County Administrative Officers
All County Medi-Cal Program Specialists/Liaisons
All County Public Health Directors
All County Mental Health Directors

Letter No.: 99-73

THE 2000 MEDICARE PREMIUMS AND SUPPLEMENTAL SECURITY INCOME STANDARD AND PARENTAL ALLOCATION FOR THE QUALIFIED MEDICARE BENEFICIARY/SPECIFIED LOW-INCOME MEDICARE BENEFICIARY (QMB/SLMB) AND OTHER PROGRAMS

Ref.: All County Welfare Directors Letter No. 98-57

The purpose of this letter is to inform you of the 2000 "Supplemental Security Income standard allocation" and the "parent allocation" amounts which are used in various programs, such as the QMB/SLMB programs.

These allocations are based on the annual federal benefit rate (FBR) which is based on the Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA). The Standard Allocation increased from $251 to $257 (the couple FBR minus the individual FBR). The Parent Allocation for 2000 is determined as follows:

When there is earned, unearned income or a combination of income:

- The parent allocation (if one ineligible parent lives with the child) is $512. (FBR for an individual); and

- The parent allocation (if both ineligible parents live with the child) is $769. (FBR for a couple).

The 2000 Medicare Part A premium will drop to $301 for persons who do not receive this benefit at no cost. For persons entitled to a reduced Medicare Part A premium (at least 30 quarters of coverage), the premium is dropping to $166. Both have a 10 percent penalty for late enrollment.

The Part A deductible is $776 for 60 days of inpatient care. The deductible is $194 a day for the 61st through the 90th day for each benefit period. For day 91 through 150, the rate is $388 per day. The skilled nursing facility deductible is rising to $97 a day for the 21st through 100th day and must be paid after the first 20 days.

The 1999 Medicare Part B premium will remain at $45.50. The Part B deductible will remain at $100.

Please remember to disregard the Title II COLA for all programs where eligibility is based on federal poverty level (FPL) except the Qualified Working Disabled Individuals (QWDI) program until the new FPLs are in effect (April 1, 2000). These programs include the Income Disregard program, 133 Percent and 100 Percent programs for children, and the QMB/SLMB programs. Also note that the FPL chart that we publish each year is the net nonexempt income limit after the any income deduction of $20 has been applied. This is not to be confused with the federal QMB/SLMB brochure or the QMB or SLMB information Notices (MC 008 and MC 014) which add the $20 to the poverty level amount.

We are enclosing a copy of the new federal QMB/SLMB/QI brochure. You may order these by calling the number on the last page.

If you have any questions regarding QMBs, please contact Margie Buzdas at (916) 657-0726. For questions regarding SLMBs, QWDIs, and QIs, please contact Vicki Partington at (916) 657-5909 or Cecilia Kelley at (916) 657-0168.

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY
GLENDA ARELLANO for
Angeline Mrva, Chief
Medi-Cal Eligibility Branch

Enclosure

What Papers Do I Need To Bring?

The state or local office will need to be sure you qualify for these programs. Each state has different rules, so it is best to **call them first** to find out what information to bring. Some of the information you will need is listed below. If you don't have this information now, you can get it later.

- ❑ Your Medicare card
- ❑ Proof of identity
- ❑ Proof of residence
- ❑ Proof of all income. This includes pension checks, social security payments, etc.
- ❑ Recent bank statements
- ❑ Property deeds
- ❑ Insurance Policies
- ❑ Financial statements from any stocks or bonds you own

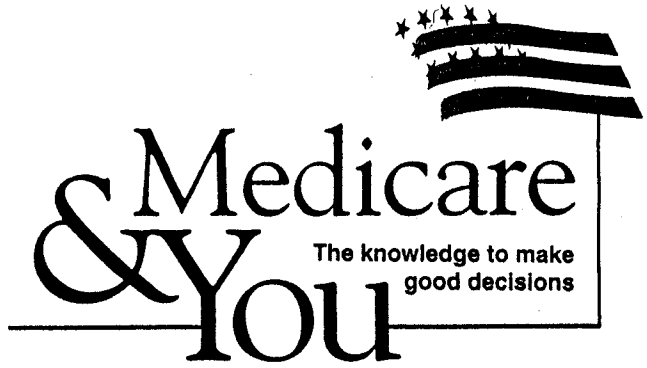
Proof of any funeral or burial policies you may have

This brochure is also available in Spanish and alternative formats for the visually impaired. To order please call 1-800-633-4227.

Health Care Financing Administration
7500 Security Boulevard
Baltimore, Maryland 21244-1850

Official Business
Penalty for Private Use, $300

Publication No. HCFA 02184
Revised June 1999



Medicare Savings for Qualified Beneficiaries

Help In Paying Medicare Out-of-Pocket Expenses For Some Low-Income Persons

HCFA
Health Care Financing Administration

How to Get Help to Pay Medical Expenses

There are new programs that may help you pay part of your medical expenses. If you qualify, you may not have to pay your Medicare premiums or out of pocket expenses.

How Do I Know If I Qualify?

1. You must have Medicare Hospital Insurance (Part A). If you're not sure whether you have it, look on your Medicare card or call Social Security toll free, at 1-800-772-1213 to find out.

AND

2. Your income is below certain limits. (Look at the table to the right to see if you might be able to qualify.)

AND

3. Your financial resources, or the things you own are below $4,000 for an individual and $6,000 for a couple. Financial resources are things like bank accounts, stocks, and bonds. Some things are not counted like the home you live in, one car, burial plots, furniture, and some life insurance.

How Do I Apply?

If you think you qualify, you should do the following.

1. Call your nearest medical assistance office and ask about programs that help pay for your Medicare premiums and other costs.
2. Ask for an application.
3. Ask them what papers you will need.
4. Ask if you can apply by mail or if you have to apply in person.
5. Complete and return the application with the papers needed.

How Can I Get More Information?

1. Call your nearest medical assistance office. You can find the number in the phone book under Medicaid, Social Services, Medical Assistance, Human Services, or Community Service.

– or –

2. Call **1-800-633-4227**. Someone there can help you find the right office in your State. For deaf or hearing impaired who use a TTY/TDD call 1-877-486-2048.

Programs That Help Pay Medical Expenses

(Choose your monthly income limit. Read the chart from left to right. (→))

Your Monthly Income Limits*	Program Will Pay	Program Name
→ $707 Individual or $942 Couple	→ Premiums, deductibles, and coinsurance	→ Qualified Medicare Beneficiary (QMB)
$844 Individual or $1,126 Couple	Medicare Part B premiums	Specified Low-Income Medicare Beneficiary (SLMB)
$947 Individual or $1,265 Couple	Medicare Part B premiums	Qualifying Individual (QI-1)
$1,222 Individual or $1,633 Couple	A small part of your Medicare Part B premiums	Qualifying Individual (QI-2)

* If you live in Alaska or Hawaii income limits are slightly higher. Income limits will change slightly in 2000.