STATE OF CALIFORNIA--HEALTH AND WELFARE AGENCY

PETE WILSON, Governor

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES
714/744 P Street
P.O. Box 942732
Sacramento, CA 94234-7320
(916) 657-2941

April 30, 1997

Medi-Cal Eligibility Branch Information Letter No.: I-97-08

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

QUALIFIED MEDICARE BENEFICIARY (QMB) OUTREACH

Ref.: All County Welfare Directors Letter No. 92-20

This is to request counties for an update of their QMB and Specified Low-Income Medicare Beneficiary (SLMB) contact and telephone number.

Persons interested in these programs may contact the Social Security Administration (SSA) toll-free line as specified in the enclosed brochure. If they request an application or more specific information, the operator may refer the party to your county contact person as shown on the enclosed list.

SSA has informed us that some of the telephone numbers and contacts are now incorrect. Please check the enclosed county contact list and make any corrections. Please respond to Marge Buzdas of my staff at (916) 657-0726 or send a FAX to (916) 657-3224.

If we do not hear from you, we will assume that the current county contact person and/or telephone number and address are correct.

The 1997 federal poverty level was sent to counties on March 25, 1997 with an effective date of April 1, 1997. The 1997 QMB/SLMB brochure should be updated by the Health Care Financing Administration shortly.

Sincerely,

Original signed by

Frank S. Martucci, Chief
Medi-Cal Eligibility Branch

Enclosures

Savings for Qualified Beneficiaries

Help in Paying Medicare Expenses Available to Some Low-Income Persons

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

Official Business
Penalty for Private Use, $300

Publication No. HCFA 02184
Revised April 1996

Medicare Savings For You

If you are elderly and poor, or disabled and poor and eligible for Medicare, your State may pay some or all of your Medicare expenses.

Federal law requires that State Medicaid programs pay Medicare costs for certain elderly and disabled persons with low incomes and very limited assets. What this means is that, depending on your income and the value of things you own, you will not have to pay as much money out of your own pocket for hospital, physician and other services covered by Medicare. You could save hundreds if not thousands of dollars each year.

Two Programs Offer Help

There are two programs to help people pay their Medicare expenses. One is called the "Qualified Medicare Beneficiary" or "QMB" program. The other is called the "Specified Low-income Medicare Beneficiary" or "SLMB" program.

The QMB program is for persons with limited resources whose incomes are at or below the national poverty level. It covers the costs of the Medicare premiums, coinsurance and deductibles that Medicare beneficiaries normally pay out of their own pockets. If you qualify for assistance under the QMB program, you will not have to pay:

- ☑ Medicare's hospital deductible, which is $736 per benefit period in 1996.
- ☑ The daily coinsurance charges for extended hospital and skilled nursing facility stays.
- ☑ The Medicare Medical Insurance (Part B) premium, which is $42.50 per month in 1996.
- ☑ The $100 annual Part B deductible.
- ☑ The 20 percent coinsurance for services covered by Medicare Part B, depending on which doctor you go to.

The State would cover these Medicare cost-sharing amounts for you. You would only be responsible for paying for the various medical supplies and services not covered by Medicare, such as routine physicals, dental care, hearing aids and eyeglasses. And, if required by your State, you would also be liable for nominal cost-sharing amounts each time you went to the doctor or used other benefits that required copayments.

While the QMB program helps those whose income is at or below the national poverty level, the SLMB program is for persons whose incomes are slightly higher than the poverty level, but not more than 20 percent higher. If you qualify for assistance under the SLMB program, you will not have to pay:

- ☑ The $42.50 monthly Part B premium.

The State will pay the premium for you. You will, however, continue to be responsible for Medicare's deductibles, coinsurance, and for charges for health care services and medical supplies not covered by Medicare.

How Do I Qualify?

The rules may vary from State to State but, in general terms, to qualify for assistance under the QMB program, you must meet the following requirements:

1. You must be entitled to Medicare Part A. If you do not have Part A or do not know whether you are entitled to Part A, check with any Social Security Administration office or call 1-800-772-1213.

Most people are entitled to Part A based on their own employment or the employment of a spouse. Even if you or your spouse did not work or did not work long enough to entitle you to Part A, your State may buy it for you.

If you are under 65, you can get Part A if you are on kidney dialysis or have undergone a kidney transplantation. You can also get Part A if you have received disability benefits from either the Social Security Administration or the Railroad Retirement Board for more than 24 months.

2. Your financial resources such as bank accounts, stocks and bonds cannot exceed $4,000 for one person or $6,000 for a couple. Some things—like the home you live in, one automobile, burial plots, home furnishings, personal jewelry and life insurance—usually do not count as resources.

3. Your income must be at or below the national poverty level. The **QMB** monthly income limits in 1996 are:

All States except Alaska and Hawaii
$665 (individual) $884 (couple)

Alaska: $825 (individual)
$1,099 (couple)

Hawaii: $763 (individual)
$1,014 (couple)

Income includes, but is not limited to, Social Security benefits, pensions and wages. Interest payments and dividends can also count as income.

What If My Income Is Slightly Higher Than the Poverty Level?

If you do not qualify for **QMB** assistance because your income is too high, you may be able to get help under the **SLMB** program. To qualify for **SLMB** assistance, you must meet requirements one and two listed under the previous section. Also, your income cannot exceed the national poverty level by more than 20 percent. This means that in 1996 the **SLMB** monthly income limits are:

All states except Alaska and Hawaii
$794 (individual) $1,056 (couple)

Alaska: $986 (individual)
$1,314 (couple)

Hawaii: $912 (individual)
$1,213 (couple)

Where Do I Apply?

If you already have Medicare Part A and think you qualify for either **QMB** or **SLMB** assistance, you must file an application for Medicaid at a State, county, or local medical assistance office—not a Federal office. You can get the telephone number for your medical assistance office by calling **1-800-638-6833.**

Give the operator the name of your State and county. Explain that you want the telephone number for the nearest office that can help you file for assistance under either the Qualified Medicare Beneficiary or Specified Low-Income Medicare Beneficiary program.

What If I'm Not Covered By Medicare Part A?

If you are age 65 or older and think you qualify for this assistance but do not have Medicare Part A, you should first contact a Social Security Administration office. You may need to file an application for Part A. The address for the nearest Social Security Administration office can be found in the telephone book. Social Security's toll-free telephone number is 1-800-772-1213.

What Do I Ask For?

When you contact your medical assistance office, ask about the **QMB** or **SLMB** program or the "Medicare Buy-In" program. Explain that you think you qualify for help in paying your Medicare costs and you want to know when and where you can file an application for Medicaid.

What Should I Bring With Me?

When you file an application for Medicaid, be prepared to answer questions about your income, property you own, and other assets. You will be expected to have copies of documents like bank statements, property deeds and insurance policies that show the amount of cash you have and the value of things you own.

Verification of your enrollment in Medicare Part A and of your income and assets will be important in determining your eligibility for assistance. As your application is processed, you may be required to go through a face-to-face interview with a Medicaid caseworker.

If Your Application Is Denied

If your application for assistance under either the **QMB** or **SLMB** program is denied, you have a right to appeal within 30 days of the denial. You file an appeal at the place you filed your Medicaid application. You are guaranteed a hearing.

If you need assistance or advice, you may want to contact your State agency on aging. Assistance also may be available from the Legal Aid or Legal Services office in your State. These offices provide free legal services to people whose incomes are within certain guidelines.

The telephone numbers for all State offices can be found in the telephone directory under "State Government."

For More Information About Medicare

For more information about the Medicare program, please refer to *Your Medicare Handbook*. Copies are available from any Social Security Administration office.

HCFA
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QUALIFIED MEDICARE BENEFICIARY (QMB)/ SPECIFIED LOW-INCOME MEDICARE BENEFICIARY (SLMB) CONTACT LIST

01 ALAMEDA COUNTY
Social Services Agency
Pat Jenkins
24041 Amador Street
Hayward, CA 94544
(510) 670-6221

02 ALPINE COUNTY
Dept. of Social Services
Lorraine Lake
P. O. Box 277
14810 Highway 89
Markleeville, CA 96120
(916) 694-2235

03 AMADOR COUNTY
Dept. of Social Services
Emily Daniel
125 Academy Drive
Sutter Creek, CA 95685
(209) 223-6550

04 BUTTE COUNTY
Dept. of Social Welfare
Brenda Pilgram
42 County Center Drive
P.O. Box 1649
Oroville, CA 95965
(916) 538-7920

05 CALAVARAS COUNTY
Welfare Department
Connie McLain
Govt. Center, Mtn. Ranch Rd.
San Andreas, CA 95249
(209) 754-6444

06 COLUSA COUNTY
Health and Human Services
Nancy Montgomery
251 E. Webster
P. O. Box 370
Colusa, CA 95932
(916) 458-0265

07 CONTRA COSTA
Social Services Dept.
Sandy Baldwin
40 Douglas Drive
Martinez, CA 94553
(510) 313-1621

08 DEL NORTE COUNTY
Welfare Department
Teri Husberg
981 H Street
Crescent City, CA 95531
(707) 464-3191

09 EL DORADO COUNTY
Department of Social Services
Mary Peterson
3057 Briw Road
Placerville, CA 95667
(916) 642-7321

10 FRESNO COUNTY
Dept. of Social Services
Johnnie Belford
(209) 453-4779 or
Gayle DeLateur
(209) 453-6469
4449 E. Kings Canyon
P.O. Box 1912
Fresno, CA 93750

11 GLENN COUNTY
Human Resources Agency
Susan Benamati
420 E. Laurel Street
P.O. Box 611
Willows, CA 95988
(916) 934-6514

12 HUMBOLDT COUNTY
Dept. of Social Services
Mary McCutcheon
929 Koster Street
Eureka, CA 95501
(707) 445-6026

13 IMPERIAL COUNTY
Department of Social Services
Carolina Fernandez
P. O. Box 930
El Centro, CA 92244
(619) 337-7436

14 INYO COUNTY
Dept. of Social Services
Darlene Landis
162A Grove Street
Bishop, CA 93514
(619) 872-1394

15 KERN COUNTY
Dept. of Human Services
Karyn Bostick
100 E. California Ave.
Bakersfield, CA 93307
(805) 631-6186

16 KINGS COUNTY
Human Services Agency
Kim McCord
1200 South Drive
Hanford, CA 93230
(209) 582-3241 Ext. 2217

17 LAKE COUNTY
Dept. of Social Services
Fayanna Scheiberl
1220 Martin Street
P.O. Box 190
Lakeport, CA 95453
(707) 262-3200

18 LASSEN COUNTY
Dept. of Social Welfare
Nellie Guinn
720 Richmond Road
P. O. Box 1359
Susanville, CA 96130
(916) 257-8311 Ext. 157

19 LOS ANGELES COUNTY
Dept. of Public Social Services
General Information Number
P. O. Box 2151
Bassett, CA 91731
(310) 908-8333

20 MADERA COUNTY
Dept. of Public Welfare
Pamela Hansen
720 E. Yosemite
P. O. Box 569
Madera, CA 93638
(209) 675-2364

21 MARIN COUNTY
Dept. of Health & Human Services
Jenny Santellan
3501 Civic Center Branch
P. O. 4160
San Rafael, CA 94913
(415) 499-7089

22 MARIPOSA COUNTY
Debbie Smith
Dept. of Human Services
Social Services Division
5186 Highway 49 North
P. O. Box 7
Mariposa, CA 95338
(209) 966-3609

23 MENDOCINO COUNTY
Dept. of Social Services
Nancy Naumann
747 South State Street
P. O. Box 1060
Ukiah, CA 95482
(707) 463-2437 Ext. 173

24 MERCED COUNTY
Human Services Agency
Edith Rodriquez
P. O. 112
Merced, CA 95641
(209) 385-3000 Ext. 5496

25 MODOC COUNTY
Dept. of Social Services
Pat Wood
120 North Main Street
Alturas, CA 96101
(916) 233-6501

26 MONO COUNTY
Dept. of Social Welfare
Frances Thompson
P.O. Box 576
Bridgeport, CA 93517
(619) 932-7291

27 MONTEREY COUNTY
Dept. of Social Services
General Information Number
1000 S. Main Street, Suite 216
Salinas, CA 93901
(408) 755-8500

28 NAPA COUNTY
Health and Human Services
Linda Abbey
2261 Elm Street
Napa, CA 94558
(707) 253-4106

29 NEVADA COUNTY
Dept. of Public Social Services
Cynthia Bryan
950 Maidu Ave
P. O. Box 1210
Nevada City, CA 95959
(916) 265-1638

30 ORANGE COUNTY
Social Services Agency
Medi-Cal Officer of the Day
1055 North Main Street, Room 600
Santa Ana, CA 92701
(714) 541-7700

31 PLACER COUNTY
County Welfare Dept.
General Information Number
11519 B Avenue
Auburn, CA 95603
(916) 889-7610

32 PLUMAS COUNTY
Dept. of Social Services
Carol Roberts
270 County Hospital Road
P. O. Box 360
Quincy, CA 95971
(916) 283-6350

33 RIVERSIDE COUNTY
Dept. of Public Social Services
Mark Friedlander
3950 Reynolds Road
P.O. Box 7789
Riverside, CA 92503
(909) 358-3262

34 SACRAMENTO COUNTY
Dept. of Social Services
Kathy Seatris--A920
1725 28th Street
Sacramento, CA 95816
(916) 732-9376

35 SAN BENITO COUNTY
Human Services Agency
Joyce Thysell
1111 San Felipe Road, No. 206
Hollister, CA 95023
(408) 637-5336

36 SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY
Dept. of Public Social Services
General Information Number
468 W. 5th Street, 2nd Floor, #420
San Bernardino, CA 92401
Call local Dept. of Social Services

37 SAN DIEGO COUNTY
Dept. of Social Services
QMB Specialist
7947 Mission Center Court
San Diego, CA 92101
(619) 531-6293

38 SAN FRANCISCO COUNTY
Brenda Jow
Dept. of Social Services
P. O. Box 7988
San Francisco, CA 94120
(415) 557-6152

39 SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY
Dept. of Public Assistance
Judy Pelcher
333 E. Washington
P. O. Box 201056
Stockton, CA 95201
(209) 468-1453

40 SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY
Dept. of Social Services
Michele Stoutenborough
3220 S. Higuera Street
P. O. Box 8119
San Luis Obispo, CA 93403-8119
(805) 781-1887

41 SAN MATEO COUNTY
Human Services Agency
Robert Fucilla
200 Harbor Blvd., Bldg. C
Belmont, CA 94002
(415) 595-7570

42 SANTA BARBARA COUNTY
Dept. of Social Services
Mysty Bonner
2125 South Centerpointe Parkway
Santa Maria, CA 93455
(805) 346-8218

43 SANTA CLARA COUNTY
Social Services Agency
Mary Cardenas
1725 Technology Drive
San Jose, CA 95110
(408) 441-5590

44 SANTA CRUZ COUNTY
Human Resources Agency
Nan Toy
1020 Emeline Street
P. O. Box 1320
Santa Cruz, CA 95060
(408) 454-4142

45 SHASTA COUNTY
Dept. of Social Services
Phyllis Trammel
2460 Breslauer Way
P. O. Box 496005
Redding, CA 96049
(916) 225-5596

46 SIERRA COUNTY
Human Services
Lori Wright
195 Front Street
P. O. Box 1019
Loyalton, CA 96118
(916) 993-6720

47 SISKIYOU COUNTY
Human Services
Delores Virag
Court House, Room #4
311 4th Street
Yreka, CA 96097
(916) 841-2702

48 SOLANO COUNTY
Public Welfare Dept.
For Vallejo & Benica:
355 Tuolumne Street
Vallejo, CA 94590
(707) 553-5359

For all other cities:
1745 Enterprise Drive
Fairfield, CA 94533
(707) 421-7700

49 SONOMA COUNTY
Social Services Dept.
George Alberigi
2550 Paulin Drive
P. O. Box 1539
Santa Rosa, CA 95402
(707) 527-2139

50 STANISLAUS COUNTY
Dept. of Social Services
Barbara Aja
P. O. Box 42
Modesto, CA 95353
(209) 558-2690

51 SUTTER COUNTY
Welfare & Social Services
Mary Sullivan
190 Garden Highway
P. O. Box 1535
Yuba City, CA 95992-1535
(916) 822-7230

52 TEHAMA COUNTY
Dept. of Social Welfare
Bonnie Davis
1135 Lincoln
P. O. Box 1515
Red Bluff, CA 96080
(916) 527-1911

53 TRINITY COUNTY
Dept. of Health & Human Svcs.
Joni McFarren
P.O. Box 1470
Weaverville, CA 96093
(916) 623-1265

54 TULARE COUNTY
Dept. of Public Social Services
General Information Numbers
100 East Center, P. O. Box 671
Visalia, CA 93279
(209) 733-6000

75 West Olive Avenue
P.O. Box 1269
Porterville
(209) 782-4750

458 East O'Neal Ave., P.O. Box 1375
Tulare, CA 93275
(209) 685-2600

148 South L Street, P.O. Box 985
Dinuba, Ca 93618
(209) 591-5804

900 North Sequoia
P.O. Box 670
Lindsay, CA 93247
(209) 562-1377

55 TUOLUMNE COUNTY
County Welfare Department
Carol Peters
20075 Cedar Road North
Sonora, CA 95370
(209) 533-5735

56 VENTURA COUNTY
Public Social Services Agency
General Information Number
1400 Vanguard Drive, Second Floor
Oxnard, CA 93033
(805) 385-8587

57 YOLO COUNTY
Dept. of Social Services
Lorraine Caprio
500 A Jefferson Boulevard, Suite 100
West Sacramento, CA 95605
(916) 375-6214

58 YUBA COUNTY
County Welfare Department
General Information Number
6000 Lindhurst Avenue, #504
P. O. Box 2320
Marysville, CA 95901
(916) 749-6311