

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES

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October 23, 1992

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

Letter No.: 92-61

SUBJECT: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SPECIFIED LOW-INCOME MEDICARE BENEFICIARY
(SLMB) PROGRAM

The purpose of this letter is to provide information on the Specified Low-Income Medicare Beneficiaries (SLMB) Program contained in Section 4501 of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act (OBRA 1990), Public Law 101-508.

BACKGROUND

The SLMB Program requires states to phase in payment for Medicare Part B premiums for certain specified low-income Medicare beneficiaries beginning January 1, 1993. A SLMB must be entitled to Medicare Part A, have no more than twice Medi-Cal's property limit (\$4,000 for one or \$6,000 for two), have income at or below 110 percent of the federal poverty level (FPL) in 1993 and 1994, rising to 120 percent in 1995, and be a citizen or alien who would be eligible for full benefits if he/she were eligible for a regular Medi-Cal program. The SLMB Program does not pay the Medicare Part A premium or the Part B deductible or copayment.

SCOPE OF BENEFITS

Medicare Part B medical insurance includes doctor's services, outpatient hospital care, diagnostic tests, durable medical equipment, ambulance service, and many other health services and supplies.

ENROLLMENT

Enrollment may take place at any time. The beneficiary need not enroll during the Initial Enrollment Period or the General Enrollment Period.

RETROACTIVE BENEFITS

Unlike QMBs, SLMBs may have up to three months of retroactive benefits immediately preceding the month of application.

MEDI-CAL CARDS

The SLMB Program will not have Medi-Cal cards issued as they will not receive any Medi-Cal services other than payment of the Part B Medicare premium.

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AID CODE

The Department has established an alphanumeric aid code to identify the Specified Low-Income Medicare Beneficiaries (SLMB) Program.

Aid Code 8C - Provides State paid Medicare Part B premiums for certain specified low-income Medicare beneficiaries as well as up to three months of retroactive benefits.

Programming changes are under development and should be ready January 1, 1993. We will notify you by E-Mail when the aid code 8C is operational.

BUY-IN OF MEDICARE PART B

The beneficiary's Medicare Part B premium will be purchased under the State Buy-in process. Also, beneficiaries will be placed on MEDS in the Special Program Segment under aid code "8C".

PROCEDURES NOTICES AND FORMS

Procedures including forms will be provided in a follow up manual letter. We expect to send these out October, 1992.

IMPLEMENTATION/OUTREACH

Implementation is scheduled for January 1, 1993. Currently, 100,000 SLMBs have been projected nationwide; however, we do not know whether SSA will do outreach to potential beneficiaries.

If you have any questions, please contact Sylvia Finberg of my staff at (916) 657-0080.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY

Frank S. Martucci, Chief
Medi-Cal Eligibility Branch