

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES

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December 5, 1996



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

Letter No.: 96-67

**THE 1997 QUALIFIED MEDICARE BENEFICIARY/SPECIFIED LOW-INCOME
MEDICARE BENEFICIARY (QMB/SLMB) STANDARD AND PARENTAL ALLOCATION**

Ref.: All County Welfare Directors Letters (ACWDL) Nos. 95-06, 95-70, and 95-80

The purpose of this letter is to inform you of the 1997 QMB/SLMB "standard allocation" and the "parent allocation."

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 \$235 for 1996 to \$242 for 1997 (the couple FBR minus the individual FBR). The parent allocation for 1996 is determined as follows:

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

- The parent allocation (if one ineligible parent lives with the child) is \$484 (FBR for an individual); and
- The parent allocation (if both ineligible parents live with the child) is \$726 (FBR for a couple).

The 1997 Medicaid Part A premium is \$311 or \$342.10 with the ten percent penalty for late enrollment. The Part A deductible is \$760. The 1997 Medicare Part B premium is \$43.80. The Part B deductible is \$100.

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The Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1993 allows for a reduced Medicare Part A premium for an aged individual who is not entitled to free Part A, but who has at least 30 quarters of coverage under Social Security. This reduced premium in 1997 will be \$187 or \$206.70 with a ten percent penalty.

Please remember to disregard the Title II COLA for all poverty level programs except Qualified Working Disabled Individuals (QWDI) program until the new federal poverty levels are in effect (April 1, 1997).

If you have any questions regarding QMBs, please contact Marge Buzdas at (916) 657-0726. For questions regarding SLMBs and QWDIs, please contact Sylvia Finberg at (916) 657-0080.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY
TOM WELCH for

FRANK S. MARTUCCI, CHIEF
Medi-Cal Eligibility Branch