

TO: Local District Commissioners, Medicaid Directors, Third Party Supervisors

FROM: Betty Rice, Director
Bureau of Consumer & Local District Relations

SUBJECT: Clarification of the Elimination of Resource Test for Qualified Individuals (QIs) and Changes to the SLIMB/QMB Program

EFFECTIVE DATE: April 1, 2002

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The federal Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services has clarified the effect of the elimination of the resource test for Qualified Individuals (QI's) on the determination of eligibility for all categories of the Medicare Savings Program.

In GIS 02 MA/009 we advised you that an applicant determined to be income eligible for the Specified Low Income Medicare Beneficiary program (SLIMB) but who had resources in excess of the SLIMB resource level would be eligible for the QI-1 program. With the new clarification, an applicant determined to be income eligible for the Qualified Medicare Beneficiary program (QMB) but who had resources in excess of the QMB resource level would also be eligible for payment of the Medicare Part B premium through the QI-1 program. Please be aware that even though the resource test has been eliminated in certain instances, income generated by a resource would be counted as income for the Medicare Savings Programs.

Applicants who are income eligible for the QMB program must complete the LDSS 2921. Information regarding resources must still be provided if the income level could make the applicant eligible as a QMB (income under 100 % of the FPL). Applicants who are income eligible for the SLIMB program (income between 100%-120% FPL) must complete the LDSS-4592. If the applicant is resource and income eligible as a QMB or SLIMB (\$4,000 for one and \$6,000 for a couple) they should be coded as such on WMS and the Medicare Buy-In. If they are only income eligible but resource ineligible, code them on WMS as a QI-1.