

DSS-4357EL

WGIUPD

GENERAL INFORMATION SYSTEM

04/28/98

DIVISION: Office Of Medicaid Management

PAGE 1

GIS 98 MA/012

TO: Commissioners and Medicaid Supervisors

FROM: Ann Clemency Kohler
Deputy Commissioner, Office of Medicaid Management

SUBJECT: Accepting Applications for QI-1's and QI-2's
See GIS 98 MA/010

EFFECTIVE DATE: Immediately

CONTACT PERSON: Frederick M. Perkins
(518) 486-5870

In GIS 98 MA/010 Local Departments of Social Services were advised to immediately initiate the process of taking applications on the combined application DSS-2921 form for individuals applying for the QI-1 and QI-2 Medicare Part B premium reimbursement program. Beginning January 1, 1998, Chapter 33 of the Laws of 1998 requires the Medicaid program to pay the Medicare Part B premiums of QI-1s and to pay a portion of the Part B premiums of QI-2s.

Since the issuance of GIS 98 MA/010, this office has received numerous requests for applications by both phone and letter. In addition, the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) created a form that they assumed could be considered an application for Medicaid. AARP members are completing that form and sending it to this office for payment of their Medicare Part B premiums. In response to both forms of requests and to ensure that local departments of social services processes are not disrupted by the State providing such applications, we are advising individuals to call their local departments of social services for the applications.

Some individuals whom we have referred to local departments of social services have expressed concern about difficulties related to individuals answering phones and not knowing about these programs.

Please ensure that appropriate staff are aware of these programs, including any staff assigned to answering phones and those who screen individuals who "walk in" to the agency for assistance, and emphasize that there is a short window in which individuals may both apply for and have their premiums reimbursed back to January 1, 1998.

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PAGE 2

GIS 98 MA/012

This office, in conjunction with the State Office For the Aging, is placing a high priority on accepting the applications, shortening the current Medicaid application form for these applicants, and making the necessary programmatic changes to process the associated MBL budgets and to update the third party sub-system. We are also working with the State Office for the Aging and with local departments of social services on streamlining the referral and eligibility process so that only those individuals most likely to be eligible for the programs would be referred for application.

Thank you for your cooperation. Any questions related to this program should be directed to Fred Perkins at (518) 486-5870 or John Brunelle at (518) 474-9193.