



Department of Human Resources
311 West Saratoga Street
Baltimore MD 21201

FIA INFORMATION MEMO

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**TO: DIRECTORS, LOCAL DEPARTMENTS OF SOCIAL SERVICES
DEPUTY/ASSISTANT DIRECTORS FOR FAMILY INVESTMENT
FAMILY INVESTMENT SUPERVISORS AND CASE MANAGERS
DIRECTORS, LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENTS**

**FROM: CHARLES E. HENRY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, FIA
JOSEPH E. DAVIS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, DHMH/OOE**

RE: AUTOMATIC MPAP ELIGIBILITY FOR QMB RECIPIENTS

PROGRAM AFFECTED: MEDICAL ASSISTANCE (QMB AND MPAP)

**ORIGINATING OFFICE: OFFICE OF OPERATIONS AND ELIGIBILITY,
MEDICAL CARE PROGRAMS**

SUMMARY: On July 30, 2002, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) approved Maryland's request for an addition to the 1115 Medicaid waiver linking the Qualified Medicare Beneficiary (**QMB**) and the Maryland Pharmacy Assistance Programs (**MPAP**). This change will allow QMB recipients to receive automatic pharmacy coverage.

Effective October 1, 2002, automatic enrollment of all Qualified Medicare Beneficiaries in the Maryland Pharmacy Assistance Program will begin. Once customers are determined eligible for QMB, **CARES** will send a QMB add or update to MMIS. This interface will convert the QMB (S03) to a S10 to reflect dual eligibility (QMB/MPAP). Due to the link in programs, the MPAP and QMB certification periods will be the same. This link eliminates the need for recipients to complete a separate application for each program. **LDSS case managers must tell customers of the addition of the pharmacy benefit and that completing a QMB redetermination will result in continuation of both types of assistance.**

MMIS will issue the cards and customers will receive a QMB (gray & white) card, a MPAP (yellow & white) card, and an information notice. If the QMB recipient has a spouse or other family members who do not have QMB, they must file a written MPAP application and meet all eligibility requirements to receive pharmacy benefits.

In addition, MPAP recipients are now eligible to purchase **all** medically necessary prescription drugs authorized by Medicaid. Customers can verify whether the prescription is covered with their pharmacist. The MPAP co-pay remains at \$5.00 for prescriptions and refills.

INQUIRIES: Please direct inquiries to Darlene Rondon-Bey, DHMH, at 410-767-6532, or Deborah Weathers at 410-767-7994.

cc: DHR Executive Staff FIA Management Staff
DHMH Executive Staff FIA Trainers
DHMH Management Staff Constituent Services
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