



Department of Human Resources  
311 West Saratoga Street  
Baltimore MD 21201

**FAMILY INVESTMENT ADMINISTRATION  
ACTION TRANSMITTAL**

Control Number: #10-28

Effective Date: January 1, 2010  
Issuance Date: May 4, 2010

**TO: DIRECTORS, LOCAL DEPARTMENTS OF SOCIAL SERVICES  
ASSISTANT DIRECTORS OF ADMINISTRATION / FINANCE  
OFFICERS, DEPUTY / ASSISTANT DIRECTORS FOR FAMILY  
INVESTMENT, FAMILY INVESTMENT SUPERVISORS AND  
ELIGIBILITY STAFF**

**FROM: KEVIN M. MCGUIRE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, FIA  
DEBBIE RUPPERT, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, DHMH/OES**

**RE: NEW QMB/SLMB RESOURCE STANDARDS**

**PROGRAM AFFECTED: MEDICAL ASSISTANCE**

**ORIGINATING OFFICE: OFFICE OF ELIGIBILITY SERVICES**

**SUMMARY:**

The Medicare Improvement for Patients and Providers Act (MIPPA) mandated changes to match the resource limits for individuals eligible for the full Low-Income subsidy (LIS) program benefits under Medicare Part D with those allowed for individuals who are also eligible for medical assistance eligibility under the QMB/SLMB Program. (See 2010 Income/Assets Guidelines chart, and revised QMB/SLMB application, attached.)

**Effective January 1, 2010**, resource limit amounts for QMB/SLMB Program increased to \$8100 for an individual and \$12,910 for a couple (includes a standard \$1500 burial credit). In addition, the cash value of life insurance is disregarded.

**ACTION REQUIRED:**

**A. Processing QMB/SLMB-Only applications or redeterminations:**

Until CARES can be reprogrammed with the new asset standards, use the following special procedure for coverage groups S03, S07, and S14:

- Calculate all countable assets (excluding life insurance) off-line using the attached QMB/SLMB Resource Worksheet.
- If the assets are within the new asset standard (\$8,100 individual, \$12,910 couple), enter into CARES only the portion of the asset amount, excluding any

life insurance value, that is at or below the old standard (\$4,000 individual, \$6,000 couple). Include the full amount, with explanation, in narration. Add the following text to the notice to the customer:

YOUR TOTAL RESOURCES, \$-----, ARE WITHIN THE CURRENT STANDARD. FOR TECHNICAL REASONS, THE TEXT OF THIS APPROVAL NOTICE MENTIONS ONLY THE PORTION OF YOUR ASSETS THAT IS AT OR BELOW THE PRIOR STANDARD.

- If assets (excluding life insurance) are greater than the new standard (\$8100 individual, \$12,910 couple), enter the actual amount so that CARES will deny for over scale assets. **You must over ride the system- generated notice and send the attached “Explanation of Ineligibility Due to Excess Resources” letter.**

Until CARES can be reprogrammed to eliminate the former limit on cash value of life insurance:

- For QMB/SLMB cases only, do not enter life insurance policy information on CARES. Enter the life insurance policy information on the QMB/SLMB Resource Worksheet and narrate the information on CARES.
- At redetermination, remember to eliminate the life insurance value before assets are calculated.

**B. Processing an application for Aged, Blind, and Disabled (ABD) and QMB/SLMB:**

- If an application is received for ABD and the customer is Medicare eligible, pend the application in the following two coverage groups: 1) S98 ABD coverage group and 2) S03 QMB/SLMB coverage group.
- Process the S98 ABD case **first** with the correct asset and life insurance information entered on CARES to allow the correct eligibility determination and CARES notices to generate.
- If the S98 case is denied for over scale assets, **remove** the asset and life insurance information and then process the S03 case using the “QMB/SLMB- Only applications or redeterminations” process, as outlined above.
- If the S98 case goes into spend down, **leave** all asset information entered and process the S03 case. (Because the asset limit for ABD is much lower than the prior QMB/SLMB asset limit, these fields will not need to be changed.)  
**REMINDER: PLEASE NARRATE.**

**INQUIRIES:**

Please direct Medical Assistance policy questions to the DHMH Division of Eligibility Policy at 410-767-1463 or 1-800-492-5231 (select option 2 and request extension 1463), Medicare Buy-In Program questions to (410) 767-5376 or 1-800-638-3403; and CARES questions to 410-238-1363.

cc:     DHMH Executive Staff             DHR Executive Staff  
       FIA Management Staff            DHMH Management Staff  
       Constituent Services             DHR Help Desk