



Date: April 28, 2023

DMS Operations Memo 23-13

To: Income Maintenance Supervisors
Income Maintenance Lead Workers
Income Maintenance Staff

Affected Programs:	
<input type="checkbox"/> BadgerCare Plus	<input type="checkbox"/> Caretaker Supplement
<input type="checkbox"/> FoodShare	<input type="checkbox"/> FoodShare Employment and Training
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Medicaid	
<input type="checkbox"/> SeniorCare	

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MEDICARE PART B IMMUNOSUPPRESSIVE DRUG (PART B-ID): A NEW MEDICARE ELIGIBILITY CATEGORY FOR MEDICARE SAVINGS PROGRAMS

CROSS REFERENCE

BadgerCare Plus Handbook, [Chapter 44 BadgerCare Plus Childless Adults](#)
Medicaid Eligibility Handbook, [Chapter 32 Medicare Savings Programs](#)

EFFECTIVE DATE

Immediately

PURPOSE

This memo announces the new federal Medicare Part B Immunosuppressive Drug (Part B-ID) benefit and clarifies policies on a Medicare Part B-ID beneficiary's eligibility for Medicare Savings Programs (MSP), Medicaid and BadgerCare Plus.

BACKGROUND

Currently, Medicare beneficiaries who are eligible for Medicare only due to end stage renal disease (ESRD) lose Medicare coverage 36 months after a kidney transplant. Beneficiaries who meet certain criteria are now able to qualify for continuous Medicare-covered immunosuppressive drugs through a new Medicare Part B Immunosuppressive Drug (Part B-ID) benefit. This new Medicare Part B-ID

benefit covers **only** immunosuppressive drugs and no other items or services. It does not provide full health coverage.

Medicare Part B-ID coverage for eligible beneficiaries began on January 1, 2023, and enrollment in this benefit is ongoing.

Part B-ID coverage is only available to beneficiaries who don't have comprehensive health coverage which pays for their immunosuppressive drugs, including full-benefit Medicaid and BadgerCare Plus.

Anyone enrolled in Medicare Part B-ID may be eligible for an MSP for assistance paying their Part B-ID costs. However, the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) expects MSP enrollment by Medicare Part B-ID beneficiaries to be very low, as most beneficiaries will be able to enroll in more comprehensive health care coverage.

POLICY

Medicare Part B-ID beneficiaries with low incomes may be eligible for MSPs to pay some or all of their Part B-ID costs. Medicare Part B-ID eligible beneficiaries can enroll in the following MSPs:

- Qualified Medicare Beneficiary (QMB)
- Specified Low-Income Medicare Beneficiary (SLMB)
- Specified Low-Income Medicare Beneficiary Plus (SLMB+)

Medicare Part B-ID has the following costs:

- Monthly premium (\$97.10 for 2023; varies based on income)
- Deductible
- Coinsurance

Table 1: Impact of Part B-ID and MSPs

Medicare Savings Program	Medicaid helps pay the following, as applicable
QMB	Part A, Part B, and Medicare Part B-ID: premiums, deductibles, coinsurance, and copayments (for services and items Medicare covers)
SLMB	Medicare Part B and Part B-ID: premiums only
SLMB+	Medicare Part B and Part B-ID: premiums only

Receipt of the limited Medicare Part B Immunosuppressive Drug Benefit (Part B-ID) has no effect on an individual's eligibility for BadgerCare Plus, even as a childless adult. If a member is enrolled in BadgerCare Plus or full-benefit Medicaid, it is up to the member to disenroll from Medicare Part B-ID by contacting the Social Security Administration (SSA) with no required actions from the IM workers. This is because BadgerCare Plus and full-benefit Medicaid provide coverage for immunosuppressive drugs, and Medicare Part B-ID eligibility is limited to those with no other coverage for immunosuppressive drugs.

Until CARES and ForwardHealth are updated to reflect Part B-ID enrollment, the receipt of Medicare Part B-ID can be self-attested.

Example 1: Janet is a 40-year-old who is enrolled in the new Medicare Part B-ID benefit in March 2023. In April 2023 Janet contacts her IM agency to apply for health care with a three-month backdate and informs the IM worker that she currently receives Medicare Part B-ID. Since Janet is applying for health care and receives Medicare, MSP is also requested.

Janet is not eligible for a full benefit health care program. CWW determines she may be eligible for Marketplace coverage and sends the referral to the FFM. Janet is eligible for QMB. Since QMB cannot be backdated and begins the month after the month in which the person is determined eligible and the case is confirmed, Janet's QMB eligibility based on her receipt of Part B-ID begins May 1, 2023.

Janet subsequently applies for Marketplace coverage, enrolls in a comprehensive health care program and notifies SSA that she has coverage. SSA disenrolls Janet from Medicare B-ID eligibility, since she now has other comprehensive health care coverage that will cover her immunosuppressive drugs. Janet contacts her IM agency to report that her Medicare Part B-ID benefits are ending. Since Janet is no longer eligible for Medicare B-ID, she is no longer eligible for QMB.

Example 2: Fong is a 22-year-old who is enrolled in the new Medicare part B-ID benefit in August 2023. In October 2023, Fong contacts his IM agency to apply for health care with a three-month backdate and informs the IM worker that he currently receives Medicare Part B-ID. Since Fong is applying for health care and receives Medicare, MSP is also requested.

Fong is eligible for BadgerCare Plus beginning July 1, 2023. Since Fong now has comprehensive health care coverage through BadgerCare Plus (which will include his immunosuppressive drugs) he will no longer be eligible for Medicare Part B-ID or Medicare Savings Programs. Fong should contact the SSA to cancel his Medicare Part B-ID.

CONTACTS

DHS CARES Problem Resolution Team

DHS/DMS/BEOT/
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