

DEPARTMENT OF WORKFORCE
DEVELOPMENT
Secretary Roberta Gassman
201 East Washington Avenue
P.O. Box 7946
Madison, WI 53707-7946
Telephone: (608) 266-7552
FAX: (608) 266-1784
www.dwd.state.wi.us



State of Wisconsin
Governor Jim Doyle

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES
Secretary Karen E. Timberlake
1 West Wilson Street
P.O. Box 7850
Madison, WI 53707-7850
Telephone: (608) 266-9622
FAX: (608) 266-7882
www.dhfs.wisconsin.gov

TO: **Income Maintenance Supervisors**
Income Maintenance Lead Workers
Income Maintenance Staff
W-2 Agencies
Workforce Development Boards
Job Center Leads and Managers
Training Staff
Child Care Coordinators

FROM: Amy Mendel-Clemens, Section Chief
Technical Assistance, Training & Education
Bureau of Enrollment Management
Division of Health Care Access and Accountability

BEM/DFS OPERATIONS MEMO

No: 09-76

DATE: 12/07/2009

FS	<input type="checkbox"/>	MA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	BC+	<input type="checkbox"/>
SC	<input type="checkbox"/>	CTS	<input type="checkbox"/>	FSET	<input type="checkbox"/>
CC	<input type="checkbox"/>	W-2	<input type="checkbox"/>	EA	<input type="checkbox"/>
CF	<input type="checkbox"/>	JAL	<input type="checkbox"/>	JC	<input type="checkbox"/>
RAP	<input type="checkbox"/>	WIA	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>
				EP	

PRIORITY: HIGH

SUBJECT: Medicare Premium Assistance Asset Limits

CROSS REFERENCE: MEH 32.6 Medicare Beneficiaries Asset Limit

EFFECTIVE DATE: JANUARY 1, 2010

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this memorandum is to inform agencies of changes to the asset limits for the Medicare Premium Assistance programs, also referred to as the Medicare Savings Programs (MSPs), including Qualified Medicare Beneficiary (QMB), Specified Low-Income Medicare Beneficiary (SLMB), Specified Low-Income Medicare Beneficiary Plus (SLMB+) and Qualified Disabled Working Individual (QDWI). These changes are required under federal law.

BACKGROUND:

Wisconsin's Medicare Savings Program's asset limits are currently equal to two times the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program's asset limits. Prior to January 1, 2010, the MSP asset limits are \$4,000 for a group size of 1 and \$6,000 for a group size of 2.

The Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act of 2008 (MIPPA) amends section 1905(p)(1)(C) of the Social Security Act requiring asset limits associated with a full subsidy under the Medicare Part D Low Income Subsidy (LIS) program be applied to all Medicare Savings Programs (MSP). These LIS limits are equal to three times the SSI asset limits and are increased each year by the annual percentage increase in the consumer price index as of September of the previous year, rounded to the nearest multiple of \$10.

POLICY CHANGE:

Effective January 1, 2010, the MSP asset limits will be equal to the asset limits associated with a full subsidy under the Medicare Part D Low Income Subsidy (LIS) program. Therefore, effective for benefit months January 2010, and forward, the asset limits for all Medicare Savings Programs (i.e., QMB, SLMB, SLMB+ and QDWI) will be \$6,600 for a group size of 1 and \$9,910 for a group size of 2. The new limits will be increased annually to account for any increase in the consumer price index.

Agencies will receive a report listing individuals who had requested MSP for January 2010 and who were denied due to excess assets based on the old limits. Workers should review these in CWW and re-run the MSP eligibility determination if it appears the individual would qualify under the new asset limits.

CARES:

CARES will be updated with the new asset limits, prior to Adverse Action in December, so the new asset limits will be used in any MSP eligibility determinations effective January 1, 2010.

CONTACTS:

BEM CARES Information & Problem Resolution Center

*Program Categories – FS – FoodShare, MA – Medicaid, BC+ – BadgerCare Plus, SC – Senior Care, CTS – Caretaker Supplement, CC – Child Care, W-2 – Wisconsin Works, FSET – FoodShare Employment and Training, CF – Children First, EA – Emergency Assistance, JAL – Job Access Loan, JC - Job Center Programs, RAP – Refugee Assistance Program, WIA – Workforce Investment Act, Other EP – Other Employment Programs.

DHS/DHCAA/BEM/SR