

**TO:** Local District Commissioners, Medicaid Directors

**FROM:** Betty Rice, Director  
Division of Consumer and Local District Relations

**SUBJECT:** Individual Categorical Codes for the Medicaid Buy-In program for Working People with Disabilities (MBI-WPD)

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** Immediately

**CONTACT PERSON:** Upstate: Local District Liaison 518-474-8887  
NYC: 212-417-4500

The purpose of this GIS message is to clarify the data entry codes used for the Medicaid Buy-In program for Working People with Disabilities (MBI-WPD) and to begin to prepare local districts for the implementation of automated premium collections for the MBI-WPD program.

Although a moratorium currently exists on premium collection for the MBI-WPD program, automated premium collections are expected to begin in 2006. Further information will be forthcoming when an implementation date is set.

The premium calculation for the MBI-WPD program will be driven from the information stored in the Welfare Management System (WMS). It is imperative that all individuals who are found eligible for the MBI-WPD program are data entered with the appropriate MBI-WPD Individual Categorical Code of 70 or 71 and have a stored MBI-WPD budget.

- 70 Medicaid Buy-In - Disabled Basic Group
- 71 Medicaid Buy-In - Medically Improved

Local districts are reminded that the Individual Categorical Code 71 is reserved for the Medical Improvement Coverage group. The State Disability Review Team (SDRT) in Albany will notify the local district if an individual meets the disability requirements for this group. As of this date, no individual has been approved for disability in the Medical Improvement coverage group; therefore, 71 must not be used until the district receives appropriate notification from the SDRT. If local district staff has entered an Individual Categorical code of 71 for any recipient in the MBI-WPD program, the code must be changed to 70 immediately.

A recent systems run of cases with a stored MBI-WPD budget revealed a number of cases that had an Individual Categorical Code of 12, disabled, instead of a 70 for the MBI Basic Coverage group. Because the stored budgets were for the MBI-WPD program but the Individual Categorical Code was 12, it was unclear whether the individuals had requested participation in the MBI-WPD program. The responsible local districts were contacted for clarification and immediate correction.

If you have any questions regarding this message, please contact your Local District Liaison at the numbers above.