

GENERAL INFORMATION SYSTEM

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DIVISION: Office of Health Insurance Programs

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TO: Local District Commissioners, Medicaid Directors

FROM: Judith Arnold, Director
Division of Coverage and Enrollment

SUBJECT: 2010 SSI, LIF/SCC Medicaid Standard and Medicaid Income and
Resource Levels

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 2010

CONTACT PERSON: Local District Support Unit
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The purpose of this General Information System (GIS) message is to advise social services districts of January 1, 2010 increases to certain figures used in determining Medicaid eligibility. This GIS also informs districts of figures that will not be increasing effective January 1, 2010.

With consumer prices down over the past year, Social Security and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits will not increase in 2010. With no increase to the SSI benefit levels, the medically needy income and resource levels will not increase effective January 1, 2010, and will remain the same as in 2009. As a result, the Mass Rebudgeting (MRB) that is normally performed in November for January 1, 2010 budget changes will not occur.

There will also be no increase in the spousal impoverishment standards for 2010.

The Medicaid Income Standard used for Singles/Childless Couples and Low Income Families will be minimally adjusted to reflect an increase in the September 2009 Consumer Price Index (CPI-U). The new Medicaid Standard levels will be available on December 19, 2009, for MBL budgets with a "From" date of January 1, 2010.

For 2010, Federal Poverty Levels will not be estimated and will be updated when the actual amounts are published in the Federal Register. At that time, a mass rebudgeting of affected cases may be performed. Further information will be forthcoming.

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Effective January 1, 2010, Medicaid eligibility must be determined using the following figures:

1. Medicaid Income Standards and Medically Needy Income and Resource Levels.

HOUSEHOLD SIZE	MEDICAID STANDARD S/CC - LIF		MEDICALLY NEEDED INCOME LEVEL		RESOURCES
	ANNUAL	MONTHLY	ANNUAL	MONTHLY	
ONE	8,479	707	9,200	767	13,800
TWO	10,584	883	13,400	1,117	20,100
THREE	12,593	1,050	15,410	1,285	23,115
FOUR	14,622	1,219	17,420	1,452	26,130
FIVE	16,719	1,394	19,430	1,620	29,145
SIX	18,253	1,522	21,440	1,787	32,160
SEVEN	19,869	1,656	23,450	1,955	35,175
EIGHT	21,943	1,829	25,460	2,122	38,190
EACH ADD'L PERSON		99	2,010	168	3,015

2. The Supplemental Security Income federal benefit rate (FBR) for an individual living alone remains \$674/single and \$1,011/couple.
3. The allocation amount remains \$350, the difference between the Medicaid level for a household of two and one.
4. The 249e factors remain .965 and .174.
5. The SSI resource levels remain \$2,000 for individuals and \$3,000 for couples.
6. The state supplement remains \$87 for an individual and \$104 for a couple living alone.
7. The Medicare Part A premium is \$244/month for people having 30-39 work quarters and \$443/month for people who are not otherwise eligible for premium-free hospital insurance and have less than 30 quarters.
8. The Maximum federal Community Spouse Resource Allowance remains \$109,560.
9. The Minimum State Community Spouse Resource Allowance remains \$74,820.
10. The community spouse Minimum Monthly Maintenance Needs Allowance (MMMNA) remains \$2,739.
11. Maximum Family Member Allowance remains \$608 until the FPLs for 2010 are published in the Federal Register.
12. Personal Needs Allowance for certain waiver participants subject to spousal impoverishment budgeting remains \$350.
13. Family Member Allowance formula number remains \$1882 until the FPLs for 2010 are published in the Federal Register.
14. Substantial Gainful Activity (SGA): Non-Blind \$1,000/month, Blind \$1,640/month, Trial Work Period (TWP) \$720/month.
15. SSI-related student earned income disregard limit of \$1,640/monthly up to a maximum of \$6,600/annually.

Medicare Part B Premium

Under a "hold-harmless" provision of federal law, basic Medicare Part B premiums in any year cannot rise higher than that year's COLA. So a zero COLA means that the basic premium (currently \$96.40 a month) must stay the same.

The intent of the policy is to protect the amount of the Social Security payment from being reduced by an increase in premium costs. The hold-harmless policy gives this protection to the majority of people enrolled in Medicare Part B.

However, the "hold harmless" provision does not apply to the following beneficiaries, whose Part B premium will increase to \$110.50 in 2010:

- Individuals, whose income is above \$85,000 or by a married individual when the couple's combined income is over \$170,000, will pay the higher premium.
- New Medicare Part B beneficiaries will pay the higher premium. Since they did not pay the premium in the previous year, the "hold harmless" provision does not apply to them.
- Individuals who do not have the Part B premium deducted from their Social Security benefit. This includes individuals who are on the Medicare Buy-In program and have their premium paid for them, usually through one of the Medicare Savings Programs. However, individuals who are on the Medicare Buy-In Program will not be directly affected, as the increased premium will be paid by the State.

If a person has chosen to pay their own Medicare premium in order to use the cost as a deduction from income or to meet a spenddown obligation, the actual premium that they must pay would be used in the budget. Therefore, if they have newly applied for Medicare Part B in 2010, their premium deduction will be \$110.50. However, if they have been enrolled in Medicare the previous year, their premium deduction will be \$96.40.

Please direct any questions to the Local District Support Unit at 518-474-8887 Upstate and 212-417-4500 for NYC.