

CHANGE NOTICE FOR MANUAL No. 19-03, Poverty Level Income Limits

DATE: 2/20/2003

Manual: Aged, Blind, and Disabled Medicaid

Change No: 19-03

To: County Directors of Social Services

Effective: April 1, 2003

I. Content OF THE CHANGE

The purpose of this change notice is to issue the new poverty level income limits and provide implementation instructions for pending applications, new applications and ongoing cases.

Manual sections have also been updated to reflect the new Medicare deductibles, premiums and co-insurance amounts that were effective January 1, 2003.

II. EFFECTIVE DATE OF NEW INCOME LIMITS

A. Income Limits

Income limits for MAABD-N, MQB-Q, MQB-B, MQB-E, and MWD are revised effective April 1, 2003 to reflect the increase in the federal poverty level. The income limits were updated in EIS effective, Wednesday, February 26, 2003. You can now enter the new income limits.

Use the new income limits to determine eligibility beginning April 2003. Use the 2002 income limits for months prior to April 2003.

B. End of COLA Disregard

The exclusion of the RSDI cost-of-living allowance (COLA) for MAABD-N, MQB-Q, MQB-B, MQB-E, and MWD ends with the implementation of the new income limits. Begin counting the full RSDI amount, including the 2003 COLA effective April 1, 2003. Continue to disregard the COLA for January, February and March 2003.

III. IMPLEMENTATION INSTRUCTIONS FOR PENDING APPLICATIONS

A. Pending MAABD PLA Applications Dated Prior to April 1, 2003

1. For the months prior to April 2003, use the income limits and countable income for those months. For months April 2003 and later, use the income limits effective April 1, 2003 and the countable income effective for those months.

For MAABD-N cases, the RSDI COLA was disregarded through March. Begin counting it in April

2. If the budget unit's countable income is within the MAABD-N limit for months in the certification period prior to April 2003 and for months April 2003 and later, approve the application effective the first month of eligibility through the end of the certification period. Enter the April 1, 2003 income limits and countable income.

3. If the budget unit's countable income prior to 4/1/03 exceeded the MAABD-N income limit, but effective 4/1/03 it is within the MAABD-N income limit and the budget unit is otherwise eligible:

a. Recalculate the medically needy deductible for the number of months in the c.p. prior to 4/1/03. When the deductible is met, authorize the case as medically needy from the date the deductible is met through 3/31/03.

NOTE: When calculating the deductible, do not disregard the COLA. The COLA disregard does not apply to medically needy.

b. Authorize the case with an N classification effective 4/1/03. The certification period will be 12 months beginning with the month of application.

NOTE: Remember that for MAABD-N, if resources exceed the MAABD resource limit at the first moment of the month (Refer to MA-2230), the applicant is ineligible for MAABD-N for the entire month. He must be evaluated as medically needy.

3. If the budget unit's countable income prior to 4/1/03 exceeded the MAABD-N income limit and it still exceeds the increased N income limit, evaluate the case for medically needy. Use the 4/1/03 income limits and the current COLA amount for any certification period that includes 4/1/03 or later, regardless of the begin date. If it is established that the deductible can be met or projected expenses are within \$300.00, pend in deductible status. If it is determined that the deductible cannot be met, deny the application.

B. Pending MAABD LTC Applications Dated Prior to April 1, 2003

If countable income is above the MAABD-N income limit prior to 4/1/03 but is within the limit effective 4/1/03, and all other MAABD-N criteria are met, classify the case as N effective 4/1/03. For months prior to 4/1/03, classify as medically needy if all other eligibility factors are met.

C. Pending MQB Applications Dated Prior to April 1, 2003

1. If the classification effective 4/1/03 is different than that prior to 4/1/03 and all other criteria were met, approve effective 4/1/03 in the new classification. Enter the income limit effective 4/1/03 in EIS. The certification from date must equal the first day of the month of application. Authorize months prior to 4/1/03 on the DB/PML screen. This means due to the increased income limit an MQB-E case is now MQB-B or MQB-B case is now MQB-Q.

2. If the applicant is eligible for MQB prior to 4/1/03 and eligible for MAABD effective 4/1/03:

a. Approve the MQB as open/shut for the months prior to 4/1/03.

b. Enter a new administrative MAABD application and approve as MAABD effective 4/1/03. Enter in EIS the income limit effective 4/1/03. The certification from date must equal the first day of the month of application.

EXAMPLE: Applicant applies for MQB on March 1, 2003. His countable income is \$745. You determine he is eligible for MAABD-Q effective April 1, 2003 based on the new income limits and he is eligible for MQB-B for March. Approve the MQB application open/shut for March 2003. Then enter a new administrative MAABD application and approve in March as MAABD-Q effective 4/1/03. Remember that

authorization for Q classification always begins the month following the month of disposition.

3. If the case's countable income prior to 4/1/03 makes the case ineligible for MQB-Q or B, but will be eligible based on the new income limits, approve the application in the appropriate classification with a Medicaid effective date of 4/1/03. The certification from date must equal the first day of the month of application.

Applicants who are eligible for MQB-E must be put on a waiting list in accordance with DMA Administrative Letter No. 14-03, Addendum 1.

D. Applications Dated 4/1/03 or Later

1. Apply the new income limits to establish eligibility for the ongoing certification period.
2. Use the old income limits to establish eligibility for the retro months prior to April 1, 2003.

IV. IMPLEMENTATION INSTRUCTIONS FOR ONGOING ADULT MEDICAID (MAABD-N, F, G, H, Q & B, MQB-Q, B & E CASES)

A. For 4/1/03 or later, apply the new income limits and 2003 RSDI amounts to establish eligibility for ongoing certification period

1. A new report will display on NCXPTR. Title of the report is Poverty Potential Eligibles for Program Review. To view the report in XPTR, use the prefix 'DHREJA POV POT ELIG FOR PROG REV'. This report compares the new Social Security amount to the new poverty level for the Aid Program/Category and Medicaid classification. If the new total countable monthly income is greater than the new poverty amount, the individual's information will be printed on this report.

2. EIS will not automatically update the cases on this report.

3. If there is no amount in the RSDI field in EIS, the increase could not be calculated correctly. These cases will also show on the new report. They will show on the report with zeroes in the EIS RSDI field. Special care should be taken when reviewing these cases to assure that countable income is calculated correctly.

4. The caseworker is to pull the cases on this report and complete an SOLQ to verify the RSDI amount. Compare the income with the new poverty level.

5. React to the change in the case by the pull cutoff date in April. If the poverty level increase causes a change in the case, take appropriate action and send a timely notice. Evaluate for Medicaid under all other aid program/categories.

a. If an individual who is dually eligible (MAABD with Medicaid class B or Q) must have a deductible, he must be transferred to MQB-B. Refer to MA-2355, MAABD/MQB Program Transfers.

b. If the individual is not entitled to Medicare, change to deductible status if it is established that the deductible can be met or projected expenses are within \$300.00 of meeting the deductible. If the deductible cannot be met, send a timely notice to terminate the case.

c. If an MQB-B recipient ceases to be eligible due to countable income exceeding the income limit and would be eligible for MQB-E, leave the MQB-B case active and authorized. Do not terminate the MQB-B case. Put the individual on the MQB-E waiting list as instructed in DMA Administrative Letter No. 14-03, Addendum 1. We are in the process of modifying EIS to allow Medicaid classification changes and aid program/category transfers to MQB-E.

This does not change instructions for applications. Continue to put applicants who would be eligible for MQB-E on the waiting list as instructed in DMA Administrative Letter No. 14-09, Addendum 1.

B. For 4/1/03 or earlier, apply the new income limits and 2003 RSDI amounts to establish eligibility for ongoing certification period

If the budget unit's countable income is within the MAABD-N income limit prior to 4/1/03 and all other criteria are met, approve effective the first month of eligibility. Use the 4/1/03 income limits and the current COLA amount for any certification period that includes 4/1/03 or later, regardless of the begin date. Please note that to enter the case in EIS, when months April 2003 or later are covered, you must enter the income limits effective 4/1/03.

V. INSTRUCTIONS FOR MAINTENANCE OF THE MANUAL

A. Remove MA-400, Figure 1.

B. Insert attached [MA-400, Figure 1](#), effective 4/1/03.

C. Remove MA-2260, pages 7-10, and 14-15.

D. Insert attached [MA-2260](#), pages 7-10, and [14-15](#), effective 4/1/03.

E. Remove MA-2360, pages 1-2, 11-12, 15-16 and 19-20.

F. Insert attached [MA-2360](#), pages 1-2, 11-12, 15-16 and 19-20, effective 4/1/03.

If you have any questions, please contact your Medicaid Program Representative.

Nina M. Yeager

Director

(This material was researched and written by Debbie Pittard, Policy Consultant, Medicaid Eligibility Unit.)