



# Provider Relations Outreach Specialist

## 124.150 Qualified Medicare Beneficiaries (QMB)

1-1-16

The Qualified Medicare Beneficiary (QMB) group was created by the Medicare Catastrophic Coverage Act and uses Medicaid funds to assist low-income Medicare beneficiaries. QMBs do not receive the full range of Medicaid benefits. For example, QMBs do not receive prescription drug benefits from Medicaid or drugs not covered under Medicare Part D. If a person is eligible for QMB, Medicaid pays the Medicare Part B premium, the Medicare Part B deductible and the Medicare Part B coinsurance, less any Medicaid cost sharing, for Medicare covered medical services. Medicaid also pays the Medicare Part A hospital deductible and the Medicare Part A coinsurance, less any Medicaid cost sharing. Medicaid pays the Medicare Part A premium for QMBs whose employment history is insufficient for Title XVIII to pay it. Certain QMBs may be eligible for other limited Medicaid services. Only individuals considered to be Medicare/Medicaid dually eligible qualify for coverage of Medicaid services that Medicare does not cover.

To be eligible for QMB, individuals must be age 65 or older, blind or an individual with a disability and enrolled in Medicare Part A or conditionally eligible for Medicare Part A. Their countable income may equal but may not exceed 100% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL). Countable resources may be equal to but not exceed twice the current Supplemental Security Income (SSI) resource limitations.

Generally, individuals may not be certified in a QMB category and in another Medicaid category simultaneously. However, some QMBs may simultaneously receive assistance in the medically needy categories, SOBRA pregnant women (61 and 62). QMB generally do not have Medicaid coverage for any service that is not covered under Medicare; with the exception of the above listed categories and individuals dually eligible.

Individuals eligible for QMB receive a plastic Medicaid ID card. Providers must view the electronic eligibility display to verify the QMB category of service. The category of service for a QMB will reflect QMB-AA, QMB-AB or QMB-AD. The system will display the current eligibility.

Most providers are not federally mandated to accept Medicare assignment (See Section 142.700). However, if a physician (by Medicare's definition) or non-physician provider desires Medicaid reimbursement for coinsurance or deductible on a Medicare claim, he or she must accept Medicare assignment on that claim (see Section 142.200 D) and enter the information required by Medicare on assigned claims. When a provider accepts Medicare according to Section 142.200 D, the beneficiary is not responsible for the difference between the billed charges and the Medicare allowed amount. Medicaid will pay a QMB's or Medicare/Medicaid dual eligible's Medicare cost sharing (less any applicable Medicaid cost sharing) for Medicare covered services.

Interested individuals may be directed to apply for the QMB program at their local Department of Human Services (DHS) county office.

## 124.160 Qualifying Individuals-1 (QI-1)

7-5-12

The Balanced Budget Act of 1997, Section 4732, (Public law 105-33) created the Qualifying Individuals-1 (QI-1) aid category. Individuals eligible as QI-1 are not eligible for Medicaid benefits. They are eligible only for the payment of their Medicare Part B premium. No other Medicare cost sharing charges will be covered. Individuals eligible for QI-1 do not receive a Medicaid card. Additionally, unlike QMBs and SMBs, they may not be certified in another Medicaid category for simultaneous periods. Individuals who meet the eligibility requirements for both QI-1 and medically needy spend down must choose which coverage they want for a particular period of time.

Eligibility for the QI-1 program is similar to that of the QMB program. The individuals must be age 65 or older, blind or an individual with a disability and entitled to receive Medicare payment Medicare Part A hospital insurance and Medicare Part B medical insurance. Countable income must be at least 120% but less than 135% of the current Federal Poverty Level.

Countable resources may equal but not exceed twice the current SSI resource limitations.

## 124.170 Specified Low-Income Medicare Beneficiaries (SMB)

7-15-12

The Specified Low-Income Medicare Beneficiaries Program (SMB) was mandated by Section 4501 of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1990.

Individuals eligible as specified low-income Medicare beneficiaries (SMB) are not eligible for the full range of Medicaid benefits. They are eligible only for Medicaid payment of their Medicare Part B premium. No other Medicare cost sharing charges will be covered. SMB individuals do not receive a Medicaid card.

Eligibility criteria for the SMB program are similar to those for QMB program. The individuals must be aged 65 or older, blind or an individual with disabilities and entitled to receive Medicare Part A hospital insurance and Medicare Part B insurance. Their countable income must be greater than, but not equal to, 100% of the current Federal Poverty Level and less than, but not equal to, 120% of the current Federal Poverty Level.

The resource limit may be equal to but not exceed twice the current SSI resource limitations.

Interested individuals may apply for SMB eligibility at their local Department of Human Services (DHS) county office.