

## TRANSMITTAL LETTER FOR MANUAL RELEASES

STATE OF MARYLAND  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE  
OFFICE OF ELIGIBILITY SERVICES  
DIVISION OF ELIGIBILITY POLICY  
201 WEST PRESTON STREET  
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21201

410-767-1463 or 1-800-492-5231 option 2 and request extension 1463

**MANUAL:** Medical Assistance                      **EFFECTIVE DATE:** January 1, 2009  
**RELEASE NO:** MR-148                              **ISSUED:** January 2009  
**APPLICABILITY:** Pickle eligibility standards;  
QMB/SLMB eligibility; and  
Spousal impoverishment standards

---

<u>Item</u>	<u>Remove Pages</u>	<u>Insert Pages</u>
<u>Chapter 3 – Coverage Groups</u> Pickle Eligibility (Social Security Cost-of-Living Adjustments)	Table I, 300-25	Table I, 300-25
Qualified Medicare Beneficiaries (QMBs) (SSI Payment Rate)	Policy Alert 03-1 Appendix A (after page 39)	Policy Alert 03-1 Appendix A (after page 39)
<u>Appendix</u> Spousal Impoverishment Standards	Schedule MA-8	Schedule MA-8

### COMMENTS

**This Manual Release contains the following new standards effective 1/1/09:**

- Social Security COLA (cost-of-living adjustment) used in determining Pickle eligibility for coverage group S04 - Table I in Chapter 3  
Eligibility case managers should test for Pickle eligibility for persons made income overscale for SSI due to the annual Social Security COLA increase in benefits.
- SSI payment rate – Appendix A in Policy Alert 03-1
- Spousal Impoverishment standards - Schedule MA-8 in the Manual's Appendix

**Table I.**

**Social Security Cost of Living Adjustments, 1985 – 2009**

<b>Date of Increase</b>	<b>Increase</b>	<b>COLA Factor</b>
Jan., 1985	3.5%	1.035
Jan., 1986	3.1%	1.031
Jan., 1987	1.3%	1.013
Jan., 1988	4.2%	1.042
Jan., 1989	4.0%	1.040
Jan., 1990	4.7%	1.047
Jan., 1991	5.4%	1.054
Jan., 1992	3.7%	1.037
Jan., 1993	3.0%	1.030
Jan., 1994	2.6%	1.026
Jan., 1995	2.8%	1.028
Jan., 1996	2.6%	1.026
Jan., 1997	2.9%	1.029
Jan., 1998	2.1%	1.021
Jan., 1999	1.3%	1/013
Jan., 2000	2.4%	1.024
Jan., 2001	3.5%	1.035
Jan., 2002	2.6%	1.026
Jan., 2003	1.4%	1.014
Jan., 2004	2.1%	1.021
Jan., 2005	2.7%	1.027
Jan., 2006	4.1%	1.041
Jan., 2007	3.3%	1.033
Jan., 2008	2.3%	1.023
Jan., 2009	5.8%	1.058

**Note:** Effective July 1982, round product down to nearest dollar to obtain actual benefit paid.

**APPENDIX A**

**MARYLAND MEDICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

**Table 1**

**QMB INCOME STANDARDS**

<b>Effective 3/1/08</b>	<b>Individual</b>	<b>Couple</b>
<b>Annual</b>	<b>\$10,400.00</b>	<b>\$14,000.00</b>
<b>Monthly</b>	<b>\$867.00</b>	<b>\$1,167.00</b>

**Table 2**

**SSI PAYMENT RATE**

<b>Effective 1/1/09</b>	<b>Individual</b>	<b>Couple</b>
<b>Monthly</b>	<b>\$674.00</b>	<b>\$1011.00</b>

**APPENDIX A**

**MARYLAND MEDICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

**Table 3**

**SLMB INCOME STANDARDS**

<b>Effective 3/1/08</b>	<b>Individual</b>	<b>Couple</b>
<b>Monthly</b>	<b>\$868 - \$1,040</b>	<b>\$1,168 - \$1,400</b>

**Table 4**

**SLMB II INCOME STANDARDS**

<b>Effective 3/1/08</b>	<b>Individual</b>	<b>Couple</b>
<b>Monthly</b>	<b>\$1,041 - \$1,170</b>	<b>\$1,401 - \$1,575</b>

## Schedule MA-8

### Spousal Impoverishment Standards

	Resources	Effective
Maximum Spousal Share	\$109,560	1/1/09
Minimum Spousal Share	\$21,912	1/1/09

	Income	Effective
Basic Maintenance and Shelter Allowance	\$1,750	7/1/08
Excess Shelter Standard	\$ 525	7/1/08
Maximum Maintenance and Shelter Allowance (sum of Basic Maintenance and Shelter Allowance and Excess Shelter Allowance)	\$2,739	1/1/09
Utility Standards: (used to compute the community spouse's excess shelter allowance)		
Heat included in rent (LUA) (Food Stamps limited utility allowance)	\$ 250	1/1/09
Heat paid separately from housing (SUA) (Food Stamps standard utility allowance)	\$ 414	1/1/09