

TRANSMITTAL LETTER FOR MANUAL RELEASES

**STATE OF MARYLAND
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE
BENEFICIARY SERVICES ADMINISTRATION
DIVISION OF ELIGIBILITY POLICY
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MANUAL: Medical Assistance **EFFECTIVE DATE:** January 1, 2007
RELEASE NO: MR-138 **ISSUED:** December 2006
APPLICABILITY: Pickle eligibility standards;
QMB/SLMB eligibility and manual notices; 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 1/1/07:

- 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, 1977-2007

| Date of Increase | Increase | COLA Factor |
|-------------------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| July, 1977 | 5.9% | 1.059 |
| July, 1978 | 6.5% | 1.065 |
| July, 1979 | 9.9% | 1.099 |
| July, 1980 | 14.3% | 1.143 |
| July, 1981 | 11.2% | 1.112 |
| July, 1982 | 7.4% | 1.074 |
| Jan., 1984 | 3.5% | 1.035 |
| 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 |

Note: July 1977 through July 1981, round product up nearest 10 cents to obtain actual benefit paid. Effective July 1982, round product down to nearest \$1.00 to obtain actual benefit paid.

APPENDIX A

MARYLAND MEDICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Table 1

QMB INCOME STANDARDS

| Effective 3/1/06 | Individual | Couple |
|-------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Annual | \$10,044.00* | \$13,440.00* |
| Monthly | \$837.00* | \$1,120.00* |

*Gross income before applying the \$20 disregard.

Table 2

SSI PAYMENT RATE

| Effective 1/1/07 | Individual | Couple |
|-------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| Monthly | \$623.00 | \$934.00 |

APPENDIX A
MARYLAND MEDICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Table 3
SLMB INCOME STANDARDS

| Effective 3/1/06 | Individual | Couple |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| Monthly | \$838 - \$999* | \$1,121 - \$1,339* |

*Gross income before applying the \$20 disregard.

Table 4
SLMB II INCOME STANDARDS

| Effective 3/1/06 | Individual | Couple |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| Monthly | \$1,000 - \$1,122* | \$1,340- \$1,504* |

*Gross income before applying the \$20 disregard.

Schedule MA-8
Spousal Impoverishment Standards

| | Resources | Effective |
|-----------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Maximum Spousal Share | \$101,640 | 1/1/07 |
| Minimum Spousal Share | \$20,328 | 1/1/07 |

| | Income | Effective |
|--|---------------|------------------|
| Basic Maintenance and Shelter Allowance | \$1,650 | 7/1/06 |
| Excess Shelter Standard | \$ 495 | 7/1/06 |
| Maximum Maintenance and Shelter Allowance (sum of Basic Maintenance and Shelter Allowance and Excess Shelter Allowance) | \$2,541 | 1/1/07 |
| Utility Standards: (used to compute the community spouse's excess shelter allowance) | | |
| Heat included in rent (LUA) (Food Stamps limited utility allowance) | \$ 197 | 1/1/07 |
| Heat paid separately from housing (SUA) (Food Stamps standard utility allowance) | \$ 327 | 1/1/07 |