

Medi-Cal Program Guide (MPG) Letter #725

May 4, 2011

Subject **2011 MEDI-CAL STANDARDS AND RESOURCE LIMITS**

Effective January 1, 2011

Reference ACWDL 11-01, 11-04 AND 11-08

Background Social Security benefit increases have been based on increases in the cost of living, as measured by the Consumer Price Index (CPI). Allocations are based on the annual federal benefit rate, which is based on the annual COLA. While the CPI increased between September 2009, and September 2010, by 1.1 percent, this increase was not enough to offset the decline that occurred last year. Therefore, there was no Social Security COLA in 2011.

Purpose To provide staff with the following information about the standards and resource limits for 2011:

- Property limits for the Medicare Savings Programs (MSP) (i.e. QMB/SLMB/QI-1)
- Medicare Part A and B Premiums
- Standard/Parent Allocation Amounts
- Social Security Title II and Title XVI COLA
- Resource Limits
- Federal Benefits Rate
- In-Kind Support and Maintenance Values for computing Pickle Eligibility
- Resource Limit for Medi-Cal and Pickle
- Pickle Disregard Computation Chart
- Tuberculosis Income Standard

Summary of Changes The following increases shall be effective **January 01, 2011**.

Medicare Savings Programs

• Property limits for the Medicare Savings Programs (i.e. QMB/SLMB/QI-1) is:

MFBU	Limit
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1	\$6,680
2	\$10,020

Medicare Part A Premiums

- Medicare Part A premiums is:

Work Quarters	Cost
Less than 30	\$450
30 to 39	\$248
40 or more	Free

- Medicare Part A deductible for inpatient care is:

Number of Days	Cost
First 60 days	\$1,132
61 through 90	\$283 per day
91 through 150	\$566 per day

- Medicare Part A deductible for skilled nursing facility is:

Number of Days	Cost
0 through 20	No deductible
21 through 100	\$141.50 per day

Medicare Part B Premiums

- Medicare Part B premium remains at \$96.40 for most Medicare beneficiaries.

If the individual...	Then the cost is...
Is a new Medicare enrollee and there income is less than \$85,000, (<i>2011 is the first year that he/she becomes eligible for Medicare</i>)	\$115.40

Note: If income is above \$85,000 for one-person or \$170,000 for a couple the Part B premiums may be higher than \$96.40 per month.

Not Subject to Change

The following items remain the same for 2011:

- Social Security Title II (retirement, Survivor's and Disability Insurance) benefits
- Supplemental Security Income/State Supplemental Payment (SSI/SSP) cash grant levels
- Standard/Parent Allocation Amounts is:
 - \$674 for an individual and

- \$1,011 for a couple.
 - Resource limits for Medi-Cal and Pickle
 - \$2,000 for one person
 - \$3,000 for two
 - Federal Benefits Rate
 - \$674 Individual
 - \$1,011 Couple
 - Pickle Disregard Computation Chart
 - Tuberculosis Income Standards
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Required Action

Medicare Savings Programs

Workers are required to:

- Ensure that effective January 1, 2011, the new MSP property limits are used when determining eligibility for QMB/SLMB/QI1.
- Review each case on the [MSP Case listing](#) where the MSP programs are failing for over resource for January 1, 2011 through April 15, 2011.
- Rerun EDBC and re-evaluate Medi-Cal to apply new MSP property levels back to January 1, 2011.
- Review Client Correspondence generated and take appropriate action.

Medicare Premiums

Workers are required to:

- Evaluate the applicant/beneficiary for a MSP program.
 - Review the MSP and budget and ensure that all appropriate deductions have been entered.
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Automation Impact

The CalWIN project generated a [MSP Case listing](#) posted in SharePoint where the MSP programs are failing for over resource for the months of January 2011 to April 15, 2011.

Forms Impact

No Impact

Access Impact

ACCESS staff must be knowledgeable about Medi-Cal standards and resource limits.

Imaging Impact

No Impact

QC/QA Impact Effective with the June 2011 review month. Quality Assurance will cite the appropriate error on any case that does not comply with the requirements outlined in this letter.

Summary of Changes The table below shows the changes made in the MPG cites.

Section	Summary of Change
Article 11 Section 1A	Updated the Assistance Standards Chart as outlined in this MPG Letter
Article 5 Section 10 Appendix E	Updated Pickle DHCS Disregard Computation Chart

Manager Approval



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DMH