CalSAWS | Information Transmittal (CIT) 0002-25

Distribution Date	January 2, 2025
To	PPOC.All, Committee.MediCal_CMSP.All
CC	Consortium.RegionalManagers.All; Consortium.SectionDirectors;
CIT Name	**Medicare Part A Buy-in**

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Description	**Purpose** The purpose of this CIT is to advise counties of the CalSAWS data entries required to establish Qualified Medicare Beneficiary (QMB) eligibility, to facilitate Medicare Part A-buy- in by the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS). **Background** Per ACWDL 24-20, on October 10, 2023, Senate Bill (SB) 311 was signed by Governor Newsom, which amended California Welfare and Institutions Code §14005.11. The bill required DHCS to enter into a Medicare Part A buy-in agreement for qualified Medicare members with CMS through a state plan amendment no later than January 1, 2025. The Medicare Part A buy-in agreement with CMS allows DHCS to directly enroll eligible QMB members in Medicare Part A and pay their Part A premiums. This means California, as a buy-in state, can auto-enroll eligible full-scope Medi-Cal members into Medicare Part A and pay their Medicare Part A premium if:

- They are enrolled in Medicare Part B as reported by the Social Security Administration (SSA) and
- They qualify for the QMB program.

For a QMB member already enrolled in Medicare, the federal government bills DHCS for the individual's Medicare premiums and discontinues sending monthly premium invoices or deducting premiums from the individual's monthly Social Security benefits.

Refer to ACWDL 24-20 for complete Medicare Part A buy-in information.

Additional Information

The updated policy no longer requires individuals to be enrolled in Medicare Part A before an eligibility determination for the QMB program can be completed. Currently, CalSAWS functionality requires a Part A record to assess QMB eligibility. A Medicare Part A record must be added in CalSAWS whenever a QMB determination is required: i.e. a new application, or Medicare approval.

CalSAWS rules will be updated to not require a Medicare Part A record on the Medicare Detail page to complete a QMB eligibility determination with CA-286007, release date to be determined.

CalSAWS will provide a list of individuals who currently:

- Have a Part B but not a Part A Medicare record in CalSAWS, and
- Income is below the QMB income limit of 100% Federal Poverty Level (FPL).

Counties will be advised when the list is available. As workers are processing cases, they may add the Medicare Part A record, as appropriate. They do not need to wait for the list to do so.

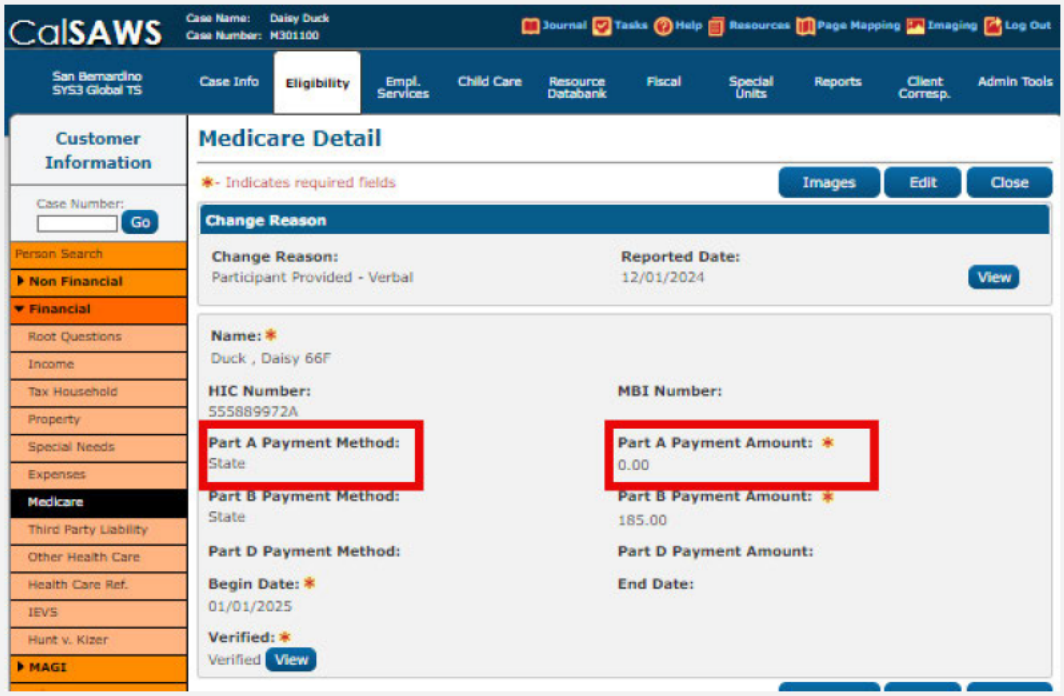
Note: There are no changes to the QMB Approval job aid.

County Actions

Until automation is updated to not require a Part A record to obtain a QMB eligibility determination, in addition to the Part B data elements, the worker must update the following two data elements on the Medicare Detail page, as if the individual already has a Part A enrollment:

1. Part A Payment Method = State
2. Part A Payment Amount = 0.00

Once the Medicare Detail page has been updated, the worker must run an Eligibility Determination and Benefit Calculation (EDBC) to obtain a QMB eligibility determination and approve/deny QMB, as appropriate.



Copy your Regional Manager(s) on any questions you might send to the Primary or Backup Project Contact.

Primary Project Contact	Elisa Miller MillerE@calsaws.org
Backup Project Contact	Laura Alba AlbaLA@calsaws.org
Attachments	ACWDL 24-20
Web Portal Link	[redacted] OR You may also retrieve the CIT document and attachments by following these steps: 1. Click on the CRFIs & CITs link at the top of the page. 2. Click on the "CalSAWS Information Transmittal (CIT)" folder. 3. Click on the "2025" folder. 4. Click on the appropriate CIT # folder.