



[CA-286007] Medicare Part A Buy-In

Issue Type:	SCR	Team Responsible:	Medi-Cal/CalHEERS	Assignee:	Appalaraju Indala
Fix Version/s:	[25.07]	Designer Contact:	Sheron Jaikumar Marialrudayasamy	Change Type (SCR):	Policy
Minor Version:		Expedite Changes:	Start Build	App Team Estimate Total:	229
Reporter:	Laura Alba	Regulation Reference:	ACWDL 24-01, ACWDL 24-20	Created:	12/18/2024 11:25 AM
Status:	Approved	Impact Analysis:	[N/A]	Outreach Required:	
Policy/Design Consortium Contact:	Laura Alba	Training Impacted:	[N/A]	App Funding Source:	CalSAWS M&E
Project Phase (SCR):	Production	County Action:	[Review List]	App Funding Source ID:	
Other Agency Cross Reference:		Counties Impacted:			

Current Design: Currently, the system requirement to qualify for Qualified Medicare Beneficiary (QMB) eligibility is as below:

- the individual is receiving Medicare Part A benefits and Medicare Part B benefits, and
- the benefit month is after the person's application month, and
- the Total Net Nonexempt Income is less than or equal to the QMB maintenance need amount (100% of Federal Poverty Limit)

An individual receiving Medicare Part B benefits only may be eligible to receive Part A state buy-in and premium payment, but the system will not allow an eligibility determination for QMB while the system still requires a Part A Medicare record.

Request: Per ACWDL 24-20, The Part A buy-in agreement allows DHCS to directly enroll eligible QMB members in Medicare Part A and pay their Part A premiums. 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. Also, Medicare Part A buy-in states can enroll eligible QMB members year-round through a streamlined enrollment process under which there will be no late enrollment penalties.

In other words, starting January 1, 2025, 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.

Previous conditional Medicare Part A enrollment requirements no longer apply.

Hence, CalSAWS will update the system logic to no longer require a Part A Medicare record to allow an eligibility determination for QMB.

Recommendation:

1. Update the Medi-Cal EDBC rules to require only Part B Medicare record to allow an eligibility determination for QMB effective January 2025 EDBC benefit month, Part A Medicare record will no longer be required for QMB evaluation.

Technical Note: Do not update/remove any other existing QMB qualification criteria residing inside the Medi-Cal EDBC rules except for the above-mentioned change

Assumption:
This change is effective for QMB program eligibility only.

Outreach Description:
Operational Impact:
Release Note Required:
Release Note Status:

Yes

Release Note - Previous Design/ Problem:	Currently, the System requires a Medicare Part A record to allow for a QMB eligibility determination.
Release Note - Now:	Medi-Cal EDBC rules no longer require a Part A Medicare record to allow an eligibility determination for QMB.
Release Note - Additional Information:	
Release Note - Functional Area:	
Release Note - Page/ Forms/Reports Impacted:	