

MEDICARE SAVINGS PROGRAMS – REFERENCE GUIDE

General Information

Medicare Savings Programs pay for cost sharing expenses for Medicare beneficiaries and include the following programs:

- QMB (S03)
- SLMB (S05)
- QI-1 (S06)
- QDWI (S04)
- State buy-in (not in ACES)

FAQ's

1. What do the Medicare Savings programs pay for?

PROGRAM	COVERAGE
QMB	Part A premiums, Part B premiums, coinsurance, deductibles and Part B co-payments
SLMB	Part B premiums
QI-1	Part B premiums for non-medicaid clients
QDWI	Part A premiums
Buy-In	Part B premiums, coinsurance and deductibles (if not eligible for QMB,SLMB,QI-1 or QDWI)

Cost sharing expenses include:

- Medicare Part A and Part B premiums
- Co-insurance charges
- Deductibles
- Some co-payments under Part B

2. What is the Buy-In program and who is eligible?

Buy-in is a state-funded program that pays for Part B premiums, coinsurance and deductibles for medicaid clients who are not eligible for a federally-funded MSP (QMB, SLMB,QI-1, QDWI). A dual eligible client active on CN or MN coverage is automatically approved for the State to pay their Part B premiums until the medicaid coverage ends. There is no coverage group for this in ACES as it happens behind the scenes. It takes approx. 60 days for the State to start paying the premiums and for SSA to reimburse clients for monies withheld from their SSA checks. When clients call about reductions in a recent SSA check or loss of Medicare B coverage, check to see if there has been a recent loss of CN/MN eligibility, especially S99 cases.

Eff: 04/2016 The income limits are :

	1 person	2 person
QMB	990	1335
SLMB	1188	1602
QI-1	1337	1803
QDWI	1980	2670

Eff: 04/2016 The resource limits are:

	1 person	2 person
QMB		
SLMB	\$7,280	\$10,930
QI-1		
QDWI	\$4000	\$6000
Buy-In	No limit	No limit

3. What about Medicare Part D premiums – who pays these?

The federal government (CMS) pays Part D premiums for low-income individuals.

Part D pays for prescription drug coverage for clients who are entitled to receive Medicare. DSHS does NOT cover the costs of prescription drugs for Medicare clients regardless of whether they have chosen to elect Part D coverage.

4. How does a client apply for help paying Part D premiums?

- The client may apply at the Social Security Administration for the LIS (low-income subsidy).
- All medicaid eligible clients are automatically enrolled into a Part D plan via a monthly interface with the federal government (CMS).

5. What about Part D co-payments?

Clients who are eligible for the low income subsidy pay a reduced amount for their drug co-payments. Until 12/31/2010, these state-funded co-payment charges were paid by the State of Washington for medicaid eligible clients. Effective 1/1/2011, these costs are now the responsibility of the client since the optional Part D co-payment program was cut by the legislature due to budget reductions.

What are the different parts to Medicare?

Part A – inpatient hospital insurance
 Part B – outpatient physicians insurance
 Part C (optional) – Medicare services delivered via a managed care plan
 Part D – Prescription drug coverage

6. What is the 'donut hole' or coverage gap?

The 'donut hole' is a period during which a client bears the full cost of their prescription drugs. DSHS medicaid clients and clients who receive coverage under an MSP do NOT have a donut hole.

7. I've heard there is a penalty if a client does not accept Medicare when they are first eligible?

There is a penalty for non-DSHS individuals. However DSHS clients who are eligible for medicaid/MSP are not subject to the penalty or restricted to set enrollment periods. They can enroll in Medicare at any time.

**For Medicare Buy-in questions or issues relating to payment for Medicare premiums, please contact:
 Medicare Buy-In unit at 1-800-562-3022 Ext: 16129**