

DSS-4357EL

WGIUPD

**GENERAL INFORMATION SYSTEM**  
**DIVISION:** Office of Medicaid Management

06/26/00

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**GIS 00 MA/011**

**TO:** Local Commissioners of Social Services, Medicaid Directors, and  
Third Party Resources Staff

**FROM:** Betty Rice, Director

Division of Consumer and Local District Relations

**SUBJECT:** Resumption of Medicare Part B Buy-In Premiums

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** Immediately

**CONTACT PERSON:** Stanley Leslie, Office of Medicaid Management  
(518) 473-5501

During April, the Office of Medicaid Management stopped the payment of the Medicare Part B premium for previously closed Medicaid recipients. A small percentage of the affected individuals were terminated improperly due to the presence of multiple client identification numbers on WMS as a result of changes in county of residence, and in an unrelated incident, a small number (26) were improperly closed in upstate counties due to Y2K problems.

In accordance with a letter to all State Medicaid Directors dated April 7, 2000 from the Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA), the Office of Medicaid Management is re-accreting to the Part B premium Buy-in for May, all cases closed by State action in the April transaction period other than those listed on WMS as deceased. Although most cases taken off the Buy-in during the April transaction period are no longer eligible for Medicaid, the individuals may be eligible for payment of the Part B premium through other programs such as Qualified Medicare Beneficiary (QMB), Specified Low Income Medicare Beneficiary (SLIMB), or the Qualified Individual (QI) program. As a result, Medicaid recipients removed from Part B Buy-in by the April transaction are being reopened on the Buy-in retroactively to the date they were deleted and will receive any premium(s) deducted from their June Social Security check in their July check if they are upstate recipients and in their August check if they are in New York City. A list displaying effected individuals was recently provided by Stanley Leslie to each district. It is not necessary at this time to do anything with that list.

Until further notice, the Department of Health will not automatically end the payment of Medicare premiums when the Medicaid case closes. Any future actions by the State or local departments of social services to terminate Medicare Part B premium Buy-in for previously closed MA recipients must be immediately preceded with client notifications. The notifications will provide information regarding the various programs other than Medicaid that may result in Part B premiums being paid on behalf of the individual.

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It is not necessary for you to take any action at this time and you should not end Medicare premium payments unless you first determine that eligibility for them does not continue with the higher income and resource levels in other programs. Should you end the premium payment along with closing the Medicaid case, clearly state this in the closing notice. Instructions for future actions including revised notices are forthcoming. If you have any questions about this, please contact Stan Leslie at (518) 473-5501.