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

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**GIS 00 MA/028**

**TO:** Local District Commissioners, Medicaid Directors, Third Party  
Resource Workers  
**FROM:** Kathryn Kuhmerker, Deputy Commissioner  
Office of Medicaid Management  
**SUBJECT:** Medicare Savings Programs and Medicare Premium Payment  
Programs  
**EFFECTIVE DATE:** Immediately  
**CONTACT PERSON:** County Liaison in the Bureau of Local District Support  
at (518) 474-9130 and (212) 268-6855 for NYC

There are currently inconsistencies in how Federal, State and local agencies refer to the Medicare/Medicaid dual eligible programs. There are a variety of names used when referring to the following programs collectively: Qualified Medicare Beneficiary (QMB) program, the Specified Low Income Beneficiary (SLIMB) program, the Qualified Disabled Working Individual (QDWI) program, and the Qualified Individual (QI) program.

The differences in terminology can be very confusing for individuals attempting to apply for one of these programs. To reduce this confusion, the Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA) and possibly the Social Security Administration (SSA) will be referring to these programs collectively in their outreach literature as "Medicare Savings Programs". To be consistent in the future, the NYS Department of Health will refer to the "Medicare Premium Payment Programs" as the "Medicare Savings Programs". Your staff who handle inquiries from the public should be made aware of this change in terminology.