

DSS-4357EL

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GENERAL INFORMATION SYSTEM
DIVISION: Office of Medicaid Management

01/13/97

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TO: Medical Assistance Supervisors

FROM: Ann Clemency Kohler, Director
Office of Medicaid Management

SUBJECT: Discontinuing Medicare Premium Payments On Buy-In

EFFECTIVE DATE:

CONTACT PERSON: Fred Perkins, Medical Assistance Specialist 1
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It has come to our attention that recipients' Medicare Part B premiums are not always evaluated for continuation or termination from the Buy-In when their Medicaid cases are closed. The purpose of this message is to remind local departments of social services that continued payment of the Medicare premiums must be redetermined concurrent with the closing of the Medicaid case.

Prior to terminating the Medicare premiums from the Buy-In, medical assistance workers must determine whether or not the recipients are eligible for either the Qualified Medicare Beneficiary (QMB) program or the Specified Low-Income Medicare Beneficiary (SLIMB) program. If the recipients are eligible for either of the above programs do not terminate the Medicare premiums from the Buy-In. If the recipients are ineligible for either of the above stated programs, or if eligible but prefer to pay for their Medicare premiums to lower their spend-down to the Medicaid level, terminate payment of the premiums from the Buy-In.

Management of the Buy-In Report is a local department of social services responsibility and a method for ensuring reduction of Medicaid expenditures.

Any questions on this message should be directed to Fred Perkins at (518) 486-5870 or Robin Johnson at (518) 486-7454.