

TRANSMITTAL LETTER FOR MANUAL RELEASES

STATE OF MARYLAND
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE
BENEFICIARY SERVICES ADMINISTRATION
DIVISION OF ELIGIBILITY SERVICES
300 WEST PRESTON STREET
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21201

MANUAL: Medical Assistance **EFFECTIVE DATE:** Upon Receipt

RELEASE NO: MR-106 **APPLICABILITY:** Spousal Impoverishment Standards
SSI Income Standards

ISSUED: November, 2002

Social Security COLAs
Qualified Alien Status
Vehicle Exclusion
Life Estate and Remainder Interest Table
Period of Life Table

<u>Item</u>	<u>Remove Pages</u>	<u>Insert Pages</u>
Chapter 3 (Social Security COLAs and SSI Income Standards)	pp. 300-25 Table I – 300-26 Table II	pp. 300-25 Table I – 300-26 Table II
Policy Alert 03-1 (SSI Payment Rate)	Appendix A	Appendix A
Policy Alert 05-4 (Alien Status and Medicaid Eligibility)	pp. 1-2	pp. 1-2
Chapter 8 (Vehicle Exclusion)	pp. 800-1– 800-2	pp. 800-1– 800-2
Schedule MA-7 (Life Estate and Remainder Interest Table)	Appendix p. 25	Appendix p. 25
Schedule MA-8 (Spousal Impoverishment)	Old Schedule MA-8 After Schedule MA-7	New Schedule MA-8 After Schedule MA-7
Schedule MA-9 (Period of Life Table- Life Expectancy)	Appendix pp. 29-30	Appendix pp. 29-30

COMMENTS

Manual Release MR-106 contains the new Spousal Impoverishment Standards effective January 1, 2002. The community spouse's Minimum and Maximum Resource Shares and the cap on the Maximum Maintenance and Shelter Allowance are increased on January 1 of each year to reflect an increase in the Consumer Price Index.

Manual Release MR-106 also contains the revised SSI Income Standards used in determining Pickle eligibility (Chapter 3 Table II), the new SSI Payment Rate (Policy Alert 03-1, Appendix A), and the new Social Security COLAs (cost-of-living adjustments) used in the determination of net countable income (Chapter 3, Table 1).

Congress has not reauthorized funding for the SLMB III coverage group (S15), so it will sunset effective December 31, 2002. Further notification about the closure will be forthcoming.

The remaining QMB/SLMB Income Standards remain unchanged until March. However, legislation requires that you disregard the Social Security COLAs when you determine QMB/SLMB eligibility through the month following the month in which the new Federal Poverty Income Guidelines are received from the federal government. The new guidelines will be received from the federal government in March. The COLA disregard should therefore be allowed through the end of April.

Manual Release MR-106 contains two policy revisions. The five-year rule denying Medical Assistance eligibility to qualified aliens who entered the United States on or after August 22, 1996 has been reinterpreted by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) (Policy Alert 05-4). Medical Assistance has been applying the five-year ban to a qualified alien's date of entry. CMS recently issued a Q&A (www.cms.gov/immigrants/) which states that the five years are counted from the effective date of qualified alien status, if the person was not a qualified alien at entry.

The motor vehicle exclusion, which took effect 10/1/01 (p. 800-2), is being given a different interpretation for Medical Assistance FAC categories than for ABD categories.

Finally, Schedule MA-7 (Life Estate and Remainder Interest Table) and Schedule MA-9 (Period of Life Table) have been brought up to date.

Table I.
Cost of Living Adjustments, 1977-2003

Date of Increase	Increase	COLA Factor
July, 1977	5.9%	1.059
July, 1978	6.5%	1.065
July, 1979	9.9%	1.099
July, 1980	14.3%	1.143
July, 1981	11.2%	1.112
July, 1982	7.4%	1.074
Jan., 1984	3.5%	1.035
Jan., 1985	3.5%	1.035
Jan., 1986	3.1%	1.031
Jan., 1987	1.3%	1.013
Jan., 1988	4.2%	1.042
Jan., 1989	4.0%	1.040
Jan., 1990	4.7%	1.047
Jan., 1991	5.4%	1.054
Jan., 1992	3.7%	1.037
Jan., 1993	3.0%	1.030
Jan., 1994	2.6%	1.026
Jan., 1995	2.8%	1.028
Jan., 1996	2.6%	1.026
Jan., 1997	2.9%	1.029
Jan., 1998	2.1%	1.021
Jan., 1999	1.3%	1.013
Jan., 2000	2.4%	1.024
Jan., 2001	3.5%	1.035
Jan., 2002	2.6%	1.026
Jan., 2003	1.4%	1.014

Note: July, 1977 through July, 1981, round product up nearest 10 to obtain actual benefit paid. Effective July, 1982, round product down to nearest \$1.00 to obtain actual benefit paid.

Table II.
SSI Income Standards

Unit Size	Living Arrangement	Effect. Jan. 2000	Effect. Jan. 2001	Effect. Jan. 2002	Effect. Jan. 2003
A-Individual	Living Independently	\$532.00	\$551.00	\$565.00	\$572.00
B-Individual	*In the household another	359.34	364.34	369.34	374.34
C-Individual	+Child living with parent	532.00	551.00	565.00	572.00
D-Individual	Living in Long Term Care	30.00	30.00	30.00	30.00
E-Couple	Living Independently	789.00	816.00	834.00	849.00
F-Couple	*In the household of another	532.00	551.00	565.00	572.00
G-Couple	Living in Long Term Care	60.00	60.00	60.00	60.00

*Living and receiving both food and shelter in the household of another.

+A child living with parents or stepparents whose income and resources are countable to the child.

APPENDIX A
MARYLAND MEDICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Table 1
QMB INCOME STANDARDS

Effective 4/1/02	Individual	Couple
Annual	\$8,860.00	\$11,940.00
Monthly	\$ 739.00	\$ 995.00

Table 2
SSI PAYMENT RATE

Effective 1/1/03	Individual	Couple
Monthly	\$552.00	\$829.00

APPENDIX A
MARYLAND MEDICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Table 3
SLMB INCOME STANDARDS

Effective 4/1/02	Individual	Couple
Monthly	\$740 - \$885	\$996 - \$1,193

Table 4
SLMB II INCOME STANDARDS

Effective 4/1/02	Individual	Couple
Monthly	\$886 - \$996	\$1,194 - \$1,343

**Eligibility of Qualified Aliens Living in the United States
Before August 22, 1996**

Qualified aliens who were living in United States prior to August 22, 1996 meet the citizenship requirements for Medical Assistance whether or not they were receiving Medical Assistance on that date.

The following persons also meet the citizenship requirements for Medical Assistance if living in the United States prior to August 22, 1996:

- O An honorably discharged veteran;
- O An alien on active duty in the Armed Forces of the United States;
- O The spouse or unmarried dependent child of one of these persons.

The above persons are eligible for Medical Assistance whether or not they meet the definition of a "qualified alien."

**Qualified Aliens Entering the United States
On or After August 22, 1996**

Qualified aliens who entered the United States on or after August 22, 1996 are not eligible for Medicaid for a period of five years after either:

- the date of entry into the United States as a qualified alien or
- the effective date of qualified alien status if the person was not a qualified alien at entry to the U.S.

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The five-year rule does not apply to the following:

- O Refugees;
- O Asylees;
- O Aliens whose deportation has been withheld under §243(h) of the INA for 5 years from grant of withholding; or

Policy Alert 05-4
MR-106
Revised November, 2002

but does not receive and which is allowed to accumulate, may be considered a resource in the months subsequent to entitlement. Any income which accumulates and becomes a resource is countable unless the resource is specifically excluded under COMAR 10.09.24.08.

An asset is evaluated in two ways: (1) value and (2) ownership interest: the countable value of an asset is the person's share (ownership interest) of the cash value of the asset. Different types of assets have different methods of valuation and different forms of ownership. In evaluating real property, for instance, one must determine a person's "equity interest" in the property, and understand the forms of ownership peculiar to real property. Liquid assets such as savings and checking accounts, life insurance, and trusts all have unique features of ownership and valuation.

Effective 10/1/01, motor vehicles are no longer counted as a liquid asset. Family and Children (FAC) coverage groups follow Food Stamps and Temporary Cash Assistance (TCA) rules to exclude all vehicles. Aged, Blind, Disabled (ABD) coverage groups only exclude the types of vehicles used for daily living and employment needs—automobiles, SUV's, trucks, and motorcycles. For ABD groups, "luxury" types of vehicles are still counted as an "other liquid asset"—boats, recreational vehicles, airplanes. Since CARES is programmed to exclude all vehicles for all programs, enter these types of luxury vehicles which are countable for ABD with a code of "CO" on CARES for "liquid asset countable for cash and/or MA". Narrate.

The following terms are used to discuss the value of an asset:

Fair Market Value (FMV) means the price for which an item can be sold on the open market at the present time.

Encumbrance means a lien or legal claim against the property, usually resulting from a debt owed by the

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MARYLAND MEDICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
Schedule MA-7
LIFE ESTATE AND REMAINDER INTEREST TABLE

Age	Life Estate	Remainder	Age	Life Estate	Remainder	Age	Life Estate	Remainder
0	.97188	.02812	42	.90457	.09543	84	.36998	.63002
1	.98988	.01012	43	.89855	.10145	85	.35359	.64641
2	.99017	.00983	44	.89221	.10779	86	.33764	.66236
3	.99008	.00992	45	.88558	.11442	87	.32262	.67738
4	.98981	.01019	46	.87863	.12137	88	.30859	.69141
5	.98938	.01062	47	.87137	.12863	89	.29526	.70474
6	.98884	.01116	48	.86374	.13626	90	.28221	.71779
7	.98822	.01178	49	.85578	.14422	91	.26955	.73045
8	.98748	.01252	50	.84743	.15257	92	.25771	.74229
9	.98663	.01337	51	.83674	.16126	93	.24692	.75308
10	.98565	.01435	52	.82969	.17031	94	.23728	.76272
11	.98453	.01547	53	.82028	.17972	95	.22887	.77113
12	.98329	.01671	54	.81054	.18946	96	.22181	.77819
13	.98198	.01802	55	.80046	.19954	97	.21550	.78450
14	.98066	.01934	56	.79006	.20994	98	.21000	.79000
15	.97937	.02063	57	.77931	.22069	99	.20486	.79514
16	.97815	.02185	58	.76822	.23178	100	.19975	.80025
17	.97700	.02300	59	.75675	.24325	101	.19532	.80468
18	.97590	.02410	60	.74491	.25509	102	.19054	.80946
19	.97480	.02520	61	.73267	.26733	103	.18437	.81563
20	.97365	.02635	62	.72002	.27998	104	.17856	.82144
21	.97245	.02755	63	.70696	.29304	105	.16962	.83038
22	.97120	.02880	64	.69352	.30648	106	.15488	.84512
23	.96986	.03014	65	.67970	.32030	107	.13409	.86591
24	.96841	.03159	66	.66551	.33449	108	.10068	.89932
25	.96678	.03322	67	.65098	.34902	109	.04545	.95455
26	.96495	.03505	68	.63610	.36390			
27	.96290	.03710	69	.62086	.37914			
28	.96062	.03938	70	.60522	.39478			
29	.95813	.04187	71	.58914	.41086			
30	.95543	.04457	72	.57261	.42739			
31	.95254	.04746	73	.55571	.44429			
32	.94942	.05058	74	.53862	.46138			
33	.94608	.05392	75	.52149	.47851			
34	.94250	.05750	76	.50441	.49559			
35	.93868	.06132	77	.48742	.51258			
36	.93460	.06540	78	.47049	.52951			
37	.93026	.06974	79	.45357	.54643			
38	.92567	.07433	80	.43659	.56341			
39	.92083	.07917	81	.41967	.58033			
40	.91571	.08429	82	.40295	.59705			
41	.91030	.08970	83	.38642	.61358			

Schedule MA-8
Spousal Impoverishment Standards

	Resources	Effective
Maximum Spousal Share	\$89,280	1/1/02
Minimum Spousal Share	\$17,856	1/1/02

	Income	Effective
Basic Maintenance and Shelter Allowance	\$1,493	7/1/02
Excess Shelter Standard	\$ 448	7/1/02
Maximum Maintenance and Shelter Allowance (Sum of Basic Maintenance and Shelter Allowance and Excess Shelter Allowance)	\$2,232	1/1/02
Utility Standards:		
Heat included in rent	\$ 135	1/1/01
Heat paid separately from housing	\$ 224	1/1/01

Schedule MA-8
Spousal Impoverishment Standards

	Resources	Effective
Maximum Spousal Share	\$90,660	1/1/03
Minimum Spousal Share	\$18,132	1/1/03

	Income	Effective
Basic Maintenance and Shelter Allowance	\$1,493	7/1/02
Excess Shelter Standard	\$ 448	7/1/02
Maximum Maintenance and Shelter Allowance (Sum of Basic Maintenance and Shelter Allowance and Excess Shelter Allowance)	\$2,267	1/1/03
Utility Standards:		
Heat included in rent	\$ 135	1/1/01
Heat paid separately from housing	\$ 224	1/1/01

Release No.: MR-106

**MARYLAND MEDICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
SCHEDULE MA 9-A
PERIOD OF LIFE TABLE, 2002**

Age	Male	Female	Age	Male	Female
0	73.63	79.22	42	34.35	38.90
1	73.20	78.73	43	33.45	37.97
2	72.24	77.77	44	32.56	37.04
3	71.27	76.79	45	31.67	36.11
4	70.29	75.81	46	30.79	35.18
5	69.30	74.82	47	29.92	34.26
6	68.32	73.84	48	29.06	33.35
7	67.33	72.85	49	28.20	32.44
8	66.35	71.86	50	27.35	31.53
9	65.36	70.87	51	26.50	30.63
10	64.37	69.88	52	25.65	29.74
11	63.38	68.89	53	24.82	28.85
12	62.39	67.90	54	23.99	27.97
13	61.40	66.91	55	23.18	27.10
14	60.42	65.92	56	22.37	26.24
15	59.45	64.94	57	21.58	25.38
16	58.49	63.96	58	20.80	24.54
17	57.54	62.98	59	20.03	23.70
18	56.59	62.01	60	19.27	22.88
19	55.65	61.04	61	18.52	22.06
20	54.72	60.07	62	17.78	21.25
21	53.79	59.09	63	17.06	20.46
22	52.86	58.12	64	16.35	19.67
23	51.94	57.15	65	15.66	18.90
24	51.01	56.18	66	14.99	18.15
25	50.08	55.20	67	14.33	17.41
26	49.15	54.23	68	13.70	16.69
27	48.22	53.26	69	13.08	15.98
28	47.28	52.29	70	12.46	15.27
29	46.35	51.32	71	11.87	14.57
30	45.41	50.35	72	11.28	13.89
31	44.48	49.38	73	10.71	13.22
32	43.55	48.42	74	10.16	12.56
33	42.61	47.46	75	9.61	11.91
34	41.68	46.49	76	9.08	11.28
35	40.76	45.53	77	8.57	10.66
36	39.83	44.58	78	8.08	10.06
37	38.91	43.63	79	7.60	9.48
38	37.99	42.68	80	7.14	8.92
39	37.07	41.73	81	6.70	8.37
40	36.16	40.78	82	6.28	7.85
41	35.25	39.84	83	5.88	7.35

**MARYLAND MEDICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
SCHEDULE MA 9-A
PERIOD OF LIFE TABLE, 2002**

Age	Male	Female			
84	5.50	6.87			
85	5.15	6.41			
86	4.81	5.97			
87	4.50	5.56			
88	4.20	5.17			
89	3.93	4.81			
90	3.67	4.47			
91	3.43	4.15			
92	3.21	3.86			
93	3.01	3.59			
94	2.82	3.35			
95	2.66	3.13			
96	2.50	2.93			
97	2.37	2.75			
98	2.24	2.58			
99	2.12	2.43			
100	2.01	2.29			
101	1.90	2.15			
102	1.80	2.02			
103	1.70	1.89			
104	1.60	1.77			
105	1.51	1.66			
106	1.42	1.55			
107	1.34	1.44			
108	1.26	1.34			
109	1.18	1.25			
110	1.11	1.16			
111	1.04	1.07			
112	0.97	0.99			
113	0.90	0.91			
114	0.84	0.84			
115	0.78	0.78			
116	0.72	0.72			
117	0.67	0.67			
118	0.61	0.61			
119	0.56	0.56			