

TRANSMITTAL LETTER FOR MANUAL RELEASES

STATE OF MARYLAND
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE
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MANUAL: Medical Assistance **EFFECTIVE DATE:** January 1, 2008
RELEASE NO: MR-145 **ISSUED:** January 2008
APPLICABILITY: Pickle eligibility standards;
QMB/SLMB eligibility and manual notices; and
Spousal impoverishment standards

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<u>Chapter 3 – Coverage Groups</u> Pickle Eligibility (Social Security Cost-of-Living Adjustments)	Table I, 300-25	Table I, 300-25
Qualified Medicare Beneficiaries (QMBs) (SSI Payment Rate)	Policy Alert 03-1 Appendix A (after page 39)	Policy Alert 03-1 Appendix A (after page 39)
<u>Appendix</u> Spousal Impoverishment Standards	Schedule MA-8	Schedule MA-8

COMMENTS

This Manual Release contains the following new standards effective 1/1/08:

- Social Security COLA (cost-of-living adjustment) used in determining Pickle eligibility for coverage group S04 - Table I in Chapter 3
Eligibility case managers should test for Pickle eligibility for persons made income overscale for SSI due to the annual Social Security COLA increase in benefits.
- SSI payment rate – Appendix A in Policy Alert 03-1
- Spousal Impoverishment standards - Schedule MA-8 in the Manual's Appendix

TABLE 1
Social Security Cost of Living Adjustments, 1977-2008

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
Jan., 2004	2.1%	1.021
Jan., 2005	2.7%	1.027
Jan., 2006	4.1%	1.041
Jan., 2007	3.3%	1.033
Jan., 2008	2.3%	1.023

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

APPENDIX A

MARYLAND MEDICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Table 1

QMB INCOME STANDARDS

Effective 3/1/07	Individual	Couple
Annual	\$10,210.00*	\$13,690.00*
Monthly	\$851.00*	\$1,141.00*

*Gross income before applying the \$20 disregard

Table 2

SSI PAYMENT RATE

Effective 1/1/08	Individual	Couple
Monthly	\$637.00	\$956.00

APPENDIX A

MARYLAND MEDICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Table 3

SLMB INCOME STANDARDS

Effective 3/1/07	Individual	Couple
Monthly	\$852 - \$1,021*	\$1,142 - \$1,369*

*Gross income before applying the \$20 disregard

Table 4

SLMB II INCOME STANDARDS

Effective 3/1/07	Individual	Couple
Monthly	\$1,022 - \$1,149*	\$1,370 - \$1,541*

*Gross income before applying the \$20 disregard

Schedule MA-8

Spousal Impoverishment Standards

	Resources	Effective
Maximum Spousal Share	\$104,400	1/1/08
Minimum Spousal Share	\$20,880	1/1/08

	Income	Effective
Basic Maintenance and Shelter Allowance	\$1,712	7/1/07
Excess Shelter Standard	\$ 514	7/1/07
Maximum Maintenance and Shelter Allowance (sum of Basic Maintenance and Shelter Allowance and Excess Shelter Allowance)	\$2,610	1/1/08
Utility Standards: (used to compute the community spouse's excess shelter allowance)		
Heat included in rent (LUA) (Food Stamps limited utility allowance)	\$ 224	1/1/08
Heat paid separately from housing (SUA) (Food Stamps standard utility allowance)	\$ 371	1/1/08