# DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES

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October 23, 1992

Letter No.: 92-61

TO: All County Welfare Directors

All County Administrative Officers

All County Medi-Cal Program Specialists/Liaisons

SUBJECT: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SPECIFIED LOW-INCOME MEDICARE BENEFICIARY

(SLMB) PROGRAM

The purpose of this letter is to provide information on the Specified Low-Income Medicare Beneficiaries (SLMB) Program contained in Section 4501 of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act (OBRA 1990), Public Law 101-508.

#### BACKGROUND

The SLMB Program requires states to phase in payment for Medicare Part B premiums for certain specified low-income Medicare beneficiaries beginning January 1, 1993. A SLMB must be entitled to Medicare Part A, have no more that twice Medi-Cal's property limit (\$4,000 for one or \$6,000 for two), have income at or below 110 percent of the federal poverty level (FPL) in 1993 and 1994, rising to 120 percent in 1995, and be a citizen or alien who would be eligible for full benefits if he/she were eligible for a regular Medi-Cal program. The SLMB Program does not pay the Medicare Part A premium or the Part B deductible or copayment.

### SCOPE OF BENEFITS

Medicare Part B medical insurance includes doctor's services, outpatient hospital care, diagnostic tests, durable medical equipment, ambulance service, and many other health services and supplies.

### ENROLLMENT

Enrollment may take place at any time. The beneficiary need not enroll during the Initial Enrollment Period or the General Enrollment Period.

#### RETROACTIVE BENEFITS

Unlike QMBs, SLMBs may have up to three months of retroactive benefits immediately preceding the month of application.

#### MEDI-CAL CARDS

The SLMB Program will not have Medi-Cal cards issued as they will not receive any Medi-Cal services other than payment of the Part B Medicare premium.

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### AID CODE

The Department has established an alphanumeric aid code to identify the Specified Low-Income Medicare Beneficiaries (SLMB) Program.

Aid Code 8C - Provides State paid Medicare Part B premiums for certain specified low-income Medicare beneficiaries as well as up to three months of retroactive benefits.

Programming changes are under development and should be ready January 1, 1993. We will notify you by E-Mail when the aid code 8C is operational.

## BUY-IN OF MEDICARE PART B

The beneficiary's Medicare Part B premium will be purchased under the State Buy-in process. Also, beneficiaries will be placed on MEDS in the Special Program Segment under aid code "8C".

## PROCEDURES NOTICES AND FORMS

Procedures including forms will be provided in a follow up manual letter. We expect to send these out October, 1992.

## IMPLEMENTATION/OUTREACH

Implementation is scheduled for January 1, 1993. Currently, 100,000 SLMBs have been projected nationwide; however, we do not know whether SSA will do outreach to potential beneficiaries.

If you have any questions, please contact Sylvia Finberg of my staff at (916) 657-0080.

sincerely,
ORIGINAL SIGNED BY

Frank S. Martucci, Chief Medi-Cal Eligibility Branch