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**MAO COVERAGE GROUPS/CRITERIA FOR THE AGED & DISABLED**

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**MAO "AT-HOME" COVERAGE GROUPS**

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**E. QUALIFYING INDIVIDUALS**

Section 4732 of the Balanced Budget Act of 1997 (P.L. 105-33) established two new mandatory eligibility groups of low-income Medicare beneficiaries, called Qualifying Individuals (QI's). This provision amends section 1902(a) (10)(E) of the Social Security Act concerning Medicare cost-sharing for Qualified Medicare Beneficiaries (QMB's) and Specified Low-Income Medicare Beneficiaries (SLMB's). It also amends section 1905(b) of the Act concerning Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) by establishing a new section 1933 for QI's.

This provision is effective for Medicare Part B premiums payable beginning with January 1998 and ending with December 2002. Each State will receive a capped allocation for each of the 5 years for the purpose of paying for the Medicare Part B premiums, or a portion thereof, of both groups. Each State must permit all QI's to apply for assistance; however, because of the capped allotment, QI's will be selected on a first come, first served basis. The total number of QI's selected in a calendar year will be limited so that the aggregate amount of benefits provided to QI's in a calendar year will not exceed the State's allocation.

**1. Qualifying Individuals-1 (QI-1 Group)**

Effective January 1, 1998, in order to be eligible as a QI-1, an individual or couple must meet the following criteria:

- The individual must be entitled to Medicare Hospital Insurance under Part A. Just as for SLMB's, this means the individual must have active Part A.
- Effective 07/01/99, there is no resource test. Effective 01/01/98 - 06/30/99, the resources could not exceed twice the SSI resource limit.
- The income limit is above 120% but less than 135% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL). The income limits are listed in the "Chart of Need Standards and Resource Limits" located in the Appendix.

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- All other non-financial factors of Medicaid eligibility must be met; however, no separate DDS decision is required.

Individuals who qualify as a QI-1 will have their Medicare, Part B premiums paid the same as SLMB eligibles. The difference between the SLMB and QI-1 coverage groups is that QI-1's have a higher income limit with a 100% federal match for the Part B premiums paid on a first come, first serve basis.

**2. Qualifying  
Individuals-2  
(QI-2 Group)**

Effective January 1, 1998, in order to be eligible as a QI-2, an individual must meet all of the same criteria as a QI-1 except for income. The income limit for QI-2's is at least 135% but not exceeding 175% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL). The income limits are listed in the "Chart of Need Standards and Resource Limits" located in the Appendix.

Individuals who qualify as a QI-2 will be entitled to a partial payment of their Medicare Part B premiums. The Medicare Part B portion that is attributable to the shift of some home health benefits from Part A to Part B will be paid directly to the eligible at year's end. The payment represents a refund of overpayment of Part B premiums they have already paid.

Federal law terminated the QI-2 Program effective 12-31-02.