



STATE OF NEW YORK
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Corning Tower The Governor Nelson A. Rockefeller Empire State Plaza Albany, New York 12237

Richard F. Daines, M.D.
Commissioner

Wendy E. Saunders
Chief of Staff

February 18, 2009

TO: All MBL Liaisons

Re: MBL Transmittal 09-1

Dear MBL Liaisons:

Enclosed is MBL Transmittal 09-1, which includes information regarding the new Federal Poverty Levels (FPLs) that are effective February 1, 2009. Again, this year's mass rebudgeting will not include a BENDEX interface. The Social Security amount will be increased by 5.8 % for Budget Types 01-LIF/ADC-Related, 02- S/CC, 04-SSI Related, 05-SSI Related and LIF/ADC-Related, and 06- SSI Related and S/CC **ONLY**. Reports will be available on the local districts respective BICS queue with the exception of districts "97 and 98".

Special attention must be given to Low Income Family (LIF) budgets.
(Budget types 01 & 05).

- If the eligible budget has an EID code of 6 and the eligibility standard has changed from the PA standard to the MA standard, the worker should change the EID code from 6 to 1. If the resulting budget (after changing the EID from 6 to 1) remains eligible at the PA standard, leave the EID code of 1 and store. If the resulting budget remains at the MA level, an additional entry is necessary on MBL. The worker should now change the EID code from 1 to 4 (\$30 and 1/3), adjust the EFFECTIVE PERIOD, and store. Print budgets to maintain an audit trail.
- If the eligible budget has an EID code of 1 and the eligibility standard has changed from the PA standard to the MA standard, the worker should change the EID code of 1 to a 4 (30 and 1/3 disregard), adjust the EFFECTIVE PERIOD and store.
- If individual is no longer eligible for LIF, at next client contact, individual categorical codes should be changed to reflect the change in category.

- If the eligible budget has Social Security Income which has changed (Effective 02/01/09) and remains at the PA standard, the EID code of 6 should be changed to a 1 at next client contact.

The items presented in this issue are:

ACTION #1: SSA Benefit Increase (COLA) and Federal Poverty Guideline Increases. Mass Rebudgeting effective February 1, 2009

- Information #1: MBL Mass Rebudgeting Output Summary
- Information #2: Criteria for MBL Mass Rebudgeting
- Information #3: Description of MBL Mass Rebudgeting Process
- Information #4: SSA Increase and Medicare Part B Summary
- Appendix A: Reports

Please call the MBL contact listed if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Patti Buttino

Patti Buttino
Director, Upstate Eligibility & Support Systems
Division of Systems
Office of Health Insurance Programs

Enclosure

cc: MA Directors

Subject: ACTION #1: SSA Benefit Increase and Federal Poverty Guideline Increase (FPL)

Affected Budget Type(s):

01-LIF/ADC-Related
02- S/CC
04-SSI Related
05-SSI Related and LIF/ADC-Related
06- SSI Related and S/CC

Contact Person:

Charles Moore at
518-408-0002 or 402-6667

A. STATEMENT OF TASK:

1. Enactment of 2008 Federal legislation includes a Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) of 5.8% effective January 1, 2009, for SSA benefits. The following Unearned Income Types are included:

Source Code	Title
42	Social Security Disability Benefit
43	Social Security Survivor's Benefit
44	Social Security Retirement Benefit
46	Social Security Benefit-Dependent

For Medical Assistance cases with Budget Types 01-LIF/ADC-Related, 02- S/CC, 04-SSI Related, 05-SSI Related and LIF/ADC-Related, and 06- SSI Related and S/CC, one or more of the above income types must be rebudgeted so that the SSA gross income amount reflects the 5.8 % increase.

2. The Federal Poverty Guidelines will be increased effective February 1, 2009. All Medical Assistance cases (BUY-IN, Expanded Eligibility, Family Health Plus) affected by this increase must be rebudgeted and compared against the new Federal Poverty Guidelines.

Change in Procedure/System Processing

Effective 2/23/09, MBL will be programmed to access the following new Federal Poverty Guidelines for all budgets with a FROM DATE of 02/01/09 or later:

Subject: ACTION #1: SSA Benefit Increase and Federal Poverty Guideline Increase (FPL)

Affected Budget Type(s):

- 01-LIF/ADC-Related
- 02- S/CC
- 04-SSI Related
- 05-SSI Related and LIF/ADC-Related
- 06- SSI Related and S/CC

Contact Person:

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1. FEDERAL POVERTY LEVELS

Household Size	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Add'L Person
100%	903	1,215	1,526	1,838	2,150	2,461	2,773	3,085	+312
120%	1,083	1,457							
133%	1,201	1,615	2,030	2,444	2,859	3,273	3,688	4,102	+415
135%	1,219	1,640							
150%	1,354	1,822	2,289	2,757	3,224	3,692	4,159	4,627	+468
185%	1,670	2,247	2,823	3,400	3,976	4,553	5,130	5,706	+577
200%	1,805	2,429	3,052	3,675	4,299	4,922	5,545	6,169	+624
250%	2,257	3,036							

B. SUPPORTING SYSTEM CHANGES:

1. MBL - Mass Rebudgeting

For Budget Types 01-LIF/ADC-Related, 02- S/CC, 04-SSI Related, 05-SSI Related and LIF/ADC-Related, and 06- SSI Related and S/CC meeting the selection criteria for the MRB will be mass rebudgeted using the percentage methodology.

All new levels may be accessed for rebudgeting purposes by the worker taking the following steps:

- a. Enter 05 Transaction Type (Change);
- b. Adjust Effective FROM DATE to 02/01/09;
- c. Make other appropriate changes, i.e. number of excess months to be calculated;
- d. Transmit and store the MA budget.

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Subject: INFORMATION #1: MBL Mass Rebudgeting Output Summary

Affected Budget Type(s):

01-LIF/ADC-Related

02- S/CC

04-SSI Related

05-SSI Related and LIF/ADC-Related

06- SSI Related and S/CC

Contact Person:

Charles Moore at

518-408-0002 or 402-6667

A. AVAILABLE OUTPUT:

MBL Mass Rebudgeting will only provide output for the Exceptions list and Eligibles list via BICS with the exception of districts "97 and 98". Reports will be available on the local districts respective BICS queue identified by filename. An example would be: (001-XWBB75A-PF-**). This breaks down as "001" number of copies, "X" BICS, "WBB75A-D" filenames (Eligibles and/or Exceptions), "PF" Print File and "***" District Number. In addition, NO COPY OF THE NEW BUDGET WILL BE PRINTED for the case record.

1. EXCEPTIONS REPORT

This report will identify those cases/budgets that did not meet the selection criteria for mass rebudgeting. Thus, they will not be rebudgeted by the system and will require review and/or rebudgeting by the worker. (Refer to INFORMATION #2 - Criteria for MBL Mass Rebudgeting).

- a. This report will include the following data fields:
Case Number, Case Name, Budget Type (when available).
- b. The sort sequence for this report will be as follows:
District, Local Office, Unit, Worker and Case Name from the WMS case record. The report header will include Local Office, Unit and Worker (for identification and distribution) and Page Number.

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Subject: INFORMATION #1: MBL Mass Rebudgeting Output Summary (Continued)

Affected Budget Type(s):

01-LIF/ADC-Related

02- S/CC

04-SSI Related

05-SSI Related and LIF/ADC-Related

06- SSI Related and S/CC

Contact Person:

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518-408-0002 or 402-6667

2. ELIGIBLES REPORT

This report will identify those budgets that passed all selection criteria and were mass rebudgeted.

- a. This report will include the following data fields: Case Number, Case Name, Budget Type, (for Budget Types 01, 02, 04, 05 and 06), Budget Status ('BC' – budget changed, 'NC' - no change, 'BY' - budget changed for BUY-IN eligibility and 'PC' – budget changed for Expanded eligibility will appear) and up to five (5) Alert messages. (An Alert is a specific message that is intended to inform the worker of certain conditions in the budget that may have influenced the mass rebudgeting outcome and which may require additional review by the worker). Refer to INFORMATION #2 - Criteria for MBL Mass Rebudgeting.
- b. The sort sequence for this report will be as follows:
District, Local Office, Unit, Worker and Case Name from the WMS case record. The report header will include Local Office, Unit and Worker (for identification and distribution) and Page Number.

Subject: INFORMATION #2: Criteria for MBL Mass Rebudgeting

Affected Budget Type(s):

- 01-LIF/ADC-Related
- 02- S/CC
- 04-SSI Related
- 05-SSI Related and LIF/ADC-Related
- 06- SSI Related and S/CC

Contact Person:

Charles Moore at
518-408-0002 or 402-6667

A. Description of MBL Mass Rebudgeting Case Selection Criteria

Case selection criteria will result in cases/budgets being put into two categories:

- Eligibles: Case eligible for immediate rebudgeting or rebudgeting guided by an alert message(s).
- Exceptions: Case in possible need of rebudgeting after resolution of the Exception Reason. The category also will include cases that will be excluded from mass rebudgeting because they are not affected by the January 1st changes.

B. Eligible Criteria

Cases to be initially eligible for mass rebudgeting selection must meet each of the following criteria:

Eligible Criteria	Explanation
(1) Case Type = 20 or 24	An MA Case or FHP Case
(2) Case Status = 10 or 21	Case must be active.
(3) Authorization To Date: Greater than 02/01/09	The authorization must extend into February 2009 or beyond.
(4) MBL Budget/No Bottom-Line	An MA case must have a MBL budget with no Bottom-Line budget.
(5) Budget Effective Dates: FROM and TO	The MBL FROM Date must be less than 02/01/09, and the TO Date greater than 1/31/09.

Subject: INFORMATION #2: Criteria for MBL Mass Rebudgeting (Continued)

Affected Budget Type(s):

- 01-LIF/ADC-Related
- 02- S/CC
- 04-SSI Related
- 05-SSI Related and LIF/ADC-Related
- 06- SSI Related and S/CC

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B. Eligible Criteria (continued)

Eligible Criteria	Explanation
(6) Case Currently Eligible	For Budget Types equal to 02, if an excess condition exists on the current budget, mass rebudgeting will be performed.

C. Exception Reasons

Cases will be listed as Exceptions for one of the following reasons:

Exception Reasons	Explanation
(1) INVALID AUTH DATE	An active Medicaid case has an authorization TO Date prior to February 1, 2009, but has not been expired for more than 2 months.
(2) APPLICATION STATUS	An MA case has undergone full data entry, but is in pending status as either a new application or reopening.
(3) BL-BUDGET RECORD	An MA case only has a Bottom-Line budget.
(4) MA AND BL-BUDGETS EXIST	An MA case has both a MBL budget and a Bottom Line budget.
(5) MBL FROM DATE 2009	The MBL budget Effective FROM Date is equal to or greater than January 1, 2009.

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Subject: INFORMATION #2: Criteria for MBL Mass Rebudgeting (Continued)

Affected Budget Type(s):

- 01-LIF/ADC-Related
- 02- S/CC
- 04-SSI Related
- 05-SSI Related and LIF/ADC-Related
- 06- SSI Related and S/CC

Contact Person:

Charles Moore at
518-408-0002 or 402-6667

Exception Reasons	Explanation
(6) EXPIRED MA-BUDGET	The MBL budget Effective TO Date is less than February 1, 2009, but has not expired for more than 2 months.
(7) PART B PREMIUM INCORRECT	A Medicare Part B Premium was entered as an Unearned Income Exception Code = 21, but the Exemption Amount was less than \$96.40.
(8) BT 02-NEW BUDGET NOT REQUIRED	An MA case has a MBL budget with a Budget Type = 02 and no SSA Unearned Income or EEC field is blank.
(9) MBL FRM DTE 2009 W/EEC, BUY-IN	The MBL budget Effective From Date is equal to or greater than January 1, 2009 and the EEC and/or BUY-IN is Not blank.

Subject: INFORMATION #2: Criteria for MBL Mass Rebudgeting (Continued)

Affected Budget Type(s):

- 01-LIF/ADC-Related
- 02- S/CC
- 04-SSI Related
- 05-SSI Related and LIF/ADC-Related
- 06- SSI Related and S/CC

Contact Person:

Charles Moore at
518-408-0002 or 402-6667

D. Alerts

Eligible cases may include up to five alerts. These alerts inform the worker of certain conditions in the budget that may have influenced the mass rebudgeting results and which may require additional review by the worker. The alerts will be numerical codes:

011 - The eligible budget had the "Months Excess is Available" field entry recomputed by the system before rebudgeting.

111 - The eligible budget had CINTRAK (RFI) data present on the case as a result of an RFI match (lockout). The worker may want to review CINTRAK information as part of associated case maintenance activity.

211 - The eligible budget had SSA Unearned Income but did not have any Medicare Part B Premium exemptions present in the budget. Therefore, the resulting new SSA calculated benefit may be incorrect, or be reflective of a net benefit amount.

311 - The eligible budget had at least one occurrence of Unearned Income Code "48 SSA Benefit - Pickle". Although the associated amount was unchanged during mass rebudgeting, the worker may want to review the budget for any necessary action.

400 - EDC date is prior to the new Budget Effective FROM date (02/01/09)

401 - The eligible budget has an F, N or S in the EEC Field.

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Subject: INFORMATION #2: Criteria for MBL Mass Rebudgeting (Continued)

Affected Budget Type(s):

01-LIF/ADC-Related

02- S/CC

04-SSI Related

05-SSI Related and LIF/ADC-Related

06- SSI Related and S/CC

Contact Person:

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518-408-0002 or 402-6667

D. Alerts (Continued)

711 - The eligible budget has a BUY-IN Code of "A, B, or C" Medicare Savings Plan (MSP). The Excess Income amount has changed and the individual is eligible under the MSP income criteria. The worker may want to review the budget for any necessary action.

811 - The eligible budget has an Expanded Eligibility Code of E (DAC). DAC cases are not changed during mass rebudgeting. The worker may want to review the budget for necessary action.

Subject: INFORMATION #3: Description of MBL Mass Rebudgeting Process

Affected Budget Type(s):

- 01-LIF/ADC-Related
- 02- S/CC
- 04-SSI Related
- 05-SSI Related and LIF/ADC-Related
- 06- SSI Related and S/CC

Contact Person:

Charles Moore at
518-408-0002 or 402-6667

A. System Process

1. Active Case Type 20 (MA) or 24 (FHP) cases will be selected and tested for the selection criteria outlined in INFORMATION #2 - Criteria for MBL Mass Rebudgeting. Those cases/budgets not meeting the selection criteria will be flagged as an exception and appear on the Exceptions Report.
2. Those cases/budgets meeting selection criteria will be tested for the presence of SSA Unearned Income in all six occurrences of unearned income. If SSA income is present, the amount will be recomputed, giving a new amount reflecting the COLA increase.
3. Medicare Part B Premium has remained \$96.40. If Part B Premium Exemptions are not present, an alert message will be issued and appear on the Eligibles Report.
4. Those cases/budgets with an entry in the Months Excess field will have the number of months remaining from February 1, 2009, recalculated and updated in the field. An alert message will be issued and appear on the Eligibles Report.
5. The Effective FROM Date will be changed to 02/01/09, in order to access the new applicable levels/allowances.
6. New budgets will be compared against the old budget with certain areas (fields) being compared to determine if the budget changed. If the budget changed, a 'BC' will appear in the Budget Status column on the Eligibles Report. If the budget did not change a 'NC' will appear in the Budget Status column on the Eligibles Report.

Subject: INFORMATION #3: Description of MBL Mass Rebudgeting Process (Continued)

Affected Budget Type(s):

- 01-LIF/ADC-Related
- 02- S/CC
- 04-SSI Related
- 05-SSI Related and LIF/ADC-Related
- 06- SSI Related and S/CC

Contact Person:

Charles Moore at
518-408-0002 or 402-6667

A. System Process (Continued)

7. Old budgets having BUY-IN eligibility information present will be compared against the new budget to determine if the BUY-IN eligibility changed. If BUY-IN eligibility changed, a 'BY' will appear in the Budget Status column on the Eligibles Report. A 'BY' status will overlay a 'BC' status for the budget if one has been determined, thus when reviewing the budget for the BUY- IN eligibility change, a worker should also review the budget for changes to MA eligibility.
8. Old budgets having Expanded Eligibility information present (EEC Code=A, B, C, D, E, H, I, P, F, S, N, J, K, V or W) will be compared against the new budget to determine if Expanded Eligibility changed. If Expanded Eligibility changed, a 'PC' will appear in the Budget Status column on the Eligibles Report.
9. New budgets will be updated to the MBL file, thus over-laying the old budget. Elements changed include Transaction Code = 05, From Date=02/01/09, Version Number and Date stored.
10. The Exceptions Report and the Eligibles Report will be available for the districts via BICS with the exception of districts 97 and 98.

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Subject: INFORMATION #4: SSA and Medicare Part B Increase Summary

Affected Budget Type(s):

01-LIF/ADC-Related

02- S/CC

04-SSI Related

05-SSI Related and LIF/ADC-Related

06- SSI Related and S/CC

Contact Person:

Charles Moore at

518-408-0002 or 402-6667

The following action will occur for all budgets meeting the eligibility criteria.

A. SSA Increase - Percentage Calculation Methodology

For all occurrences of Unearned Income Codes 42, 43, 44, or 46, the SSA COLA increase will be computed using 5.8 % added to the existing SSA Income Amount. The amount(s) will be used when recalculating the budget and will appear on the screens of the rebudgeted cases in the appropriate Unearned Income amount fields.

B. Medicare Part B

1. For budgets which have an occurrence of SSA income and there is an Unearned Income Exemption Code of 21 (Medicare) the Exemption Amount will remain \$96.40. When the Exemption Amount currently on file is less than \$96.40, the case will be flagged as an exception and will be listed on the Exception Report.
2. When the Exemption Code is 01 and the exemption amount is not equal to \$96.40, or there are no occurrences of Exemption Code 21, Alert 211 (No Medicare Part B) will appear on the Eligible Report.