



Date: November 20, 2024

From: CenCal Health
Provider Relations and Provider Services Department

Subject: Medicare Part A Buy-In State

Effective January 1, 2025, California will become a Medicare Part A Buy-In State, which means that certain Medi-Cal beneficiaries who only have Medicare Part B in 2024 will also automatically get premium-free Medicare Part A, and they will become full-benefit dually eligible beneficiaries. More specifically, as of January 1, 2025, Supplemental Security Income/State Supplementary Payment (SSI/SSP) individuals will be automatically enrolled as Qualified Medicare Beneficiaries (QMBs) and will receive a notice about having their eligibility managed by the Department of Health Care Services. Non-SSI individuals who apply and are approved for the QMB program at the county will receive an approval Notice of Action that is similar to the Notice of Action used today, except the notice is being updated to remove references to the Conditional Part A process. The notices will be mailed in December for the January month of eligibility.

From a Member perspective, this means that Medicare instead of Medi-Cal will provide primary coverage for hospitalizations and other inpatient benefits that are covered through Medicare Part A for impacted Members. Any new authorizations between now and 12/31/2024, for impacted Members, will only be approved until 12/31/2024.

If you have further questions regarding this notification, please contact the Provider Relations Department at 805-562-1676 or psrgroup@cencalhealth.org.

In Partnership,
CenCal Health