



North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services  
**Division of Medical Assistance**

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Beverly Eaves Perdue, Governor  
Lanier M. Cansler, Secretary

Craigian L. Gray, MD, MBA, JD, Director

August 28, 2009

Re: MIPPA mandates for LIS  
application as a Medicaid  
application and SHIP outreach

Dear County Director of Social Services,

The Medicare Improvements Patient and Providers Act of 2008 (MIPPA) mandated that, effective January 1, 2010, an application for the Medicare Low-Income Subsidy (LIS) program will be considered as an application for the Medicare Savings Programs (MSP), known in North Carolina as the MQB programs. The purpose of this letter is to alert you to the upcoming changes and outreach efforts resulting from the MIPPA mandates.

Beginning January 1, 2010, the Social Security Administration (SSA) will transmit daily electronic data for each LIS application when SSA determines on an initial application that a person is eligible or not eligible for LIS. DMA will match the data with current Medicaid recipient data and create an electronic North Carolina Medicaid application for individuals who are not Medicaid/MQB recipients. The county department of social services will then be notified of the electronic application on the regular Adjusted Application Management Report. Since in North Carolina, an application for MSP is considered an application for Medicaid, the county will evaluate the individual for all possible Medicaid programs. A workgroup consisting of DMA, County DSS Medicaid, and DIRM staff have been working toward this implementation. At this time it is unclear as to the number of additional applications this may entail. More detailed information and policy changes will be forthcoming.

The SSA reported that they completed 21,889 LIS decisions for persons in North Carolina from October 2008 to June 26, 2009. This data was not provided in a form to identify numbers for each county. However, this provides a window as to the number to expect after the January 1, 2010 program implementation. The SSA also put together estimated LIS outreach targeting data to assist the SHIP outreach efforts that attempt to identify potential LIS eligible people in each county. This data was obtained through multiple sources, including census and Medicare enrollment data, and may provide an idea as to the number of Medicaid applications to expect due to the SHIP outreach efforts. A list is attached to this letter.

MIPPA also made available federal grant funds for the Seniors' Health Insurance Information Program (SHIP), a division of the North Carolina Department of Insurance, to assist in helping individuals apply for LIS and Medicaid programs. In partnership with the Division of Aging and Adult Services (DAAS), Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) and the Community Resource Connections (CRSs), this fall SHIP will launch a statewide effort, "Relay for Extra Help", to provide outreach and application assistance to persons who may be eligible for LIS and Medicaid.

The MIPPA requirements of our state agencies presents an opportunity for SHIIP and county departments of social services to work together toward increasing awareness and enrollment the LIS and Medicaid. The SHIIP coordinators and volunteers across the state are ready to assist the DSS offices. With the new initiative, SHIIP is willing to help potential recipients fill out the Medicaid application before they arrive at the local offices. Additionally, SHIIP is an excellent source of information on all aspects of Medicare, including Medicare Parts A, B, C and D, as well as private insurance sold to supplement Medicare. SHIIP coordinators and volunteers are available in every county and can provide:

- Medicare Part D one-on-one counseling, including enrollment assistance,
- Medicare Part D up-to-date information and current changes, and
- In house training on Medicare Part D to DSS staff.

In order to facilitate coordination of these MIPPA activities, please designate one person from your adult Medicaid staff as a SHIIP liaison. The liaison should work closely with the local SHIIP coordinating site in an effort to maximize all available resources, attend local SHIIP meetings to share the most updated health insurance information, and coordinate local efforts to assist Medicare beneficiaries during the application process. The DSS SHIIP liaison can provide expertise on Medicaid programs to the SHIIP Coordinators and volunteers.

Many DSS offices currently work closely with the local SHIIP staff. I encourage this relationship to continue and grow as our agencies share mutual obligations and can share the responsibilities provided by MIPPA.

Please send the county liaison contact information, email address and telephone number, to Melinda Munden at [melinda.munden@ncdoi.gov](mailto:melinda.munden@ncdoi.gov) . In turn, Ms. Munden will provide information on the quarterly meetings as well as the name of the SHIIP Regional Manager and Coordinator in the county. It is the desire of SHIIP to assist your agency with helping Medicare/ Medicaid beneficiaries apply for LIS and Medicaid. In addition, SHIIP wants to help these beneficiaries understand their health insurance options related to Medicare Part D as well as Medicare Advantage plans. SHIIP will also provide updates on the state's prescription drug assistance program or NCRx.

We appreciate your assistance in this effort. If you have questions regarding this information, please contact your Medicaid Program Representative.

Sincerely,

Craig L. Gray, MD, MBA, JD

CC: Carla Obiol, Deputy Commissioner, DOI

Attachment

CLG:sr

Data is from SSA for use by the SHIPs in their outreach efforts for LIS potential eligible persons. Data are only estimates to identify areas to target LIS outreach. They are not exact counts of LIS eligible people. Data for estimated number in target audience as of March 2009:

<b>County</b>	<b>Estimated #</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>Estimated #</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>Estimated #</b>
Alamance	1,499	Franklin	659	Pamlico	102
Alexander	414	Gaston	2,383	Pasquotank	573
Alleghany	237	Gates	164	Pender	679
Anson	332	Graham	81	Perquimans	278
Ashe	542	Granville	846	Person	560
Avery	192	Greene	272	Pitt	1,595
Beaufort	788	Guilford	2,409	Polk	222
Bertie	395	Halifax	893	Randolph	1,611
Bladen	491	Harnett	1,197	Richmond	780
Brunswick	1,231	Haywood	778	Robeson	1,722
Buncombe	2,471	Henderson	764	Rockingham	1,429
Burke	1,487	Hertford	394	Rowan	1,534
Cabarrus	1,308	Hoke	347	Rutherford	1,060
Caldwell	1,245	Hyde	66	Sampson	1,125
Camden	181	Iredell	1,774	Scotland	474
Carteret	629	Jackson	463	Stanly	1,052
Caswell	352	Johnston	2,040	Stokes	563
Catawba	1,684	Jones	82	Surry	1,135
Chatham	736	Lee	615	Swain	262
Cherokee	709	Lenoir	1,042	Transylvania	208
Chowan	236	Lincoln	818	Tyrrell	42
Clay	232	Mcdowell	767	Union	1,221
Cleveland	1,587	Macon	696	Vance	729
Columbus	1,213	Madison	412	Wake	3,181
Craven	924	Martin	432	Warren	208
Cumberland	1,808	Mecklenburg	3,105	Washington	193
Currituck	147	Mitchell	248	Watauga	520
Dare	48	Montgomery	356	Wayne	1,872
Davidson	1,685	Moore	663	Wilkes	992
Davie	361	Nash	1,354	Wilson	1,234
Duplin	763	New Hanover	1,146	Yadkin	523
Durham	1,267	Northampton	133	Yancey	251
Edgecombe	763	Onslow	1,008		
Forsyth	1,922	Orange	752		