

MEDICAL ASSISTANCE BULLETIN

ISSUE DATE February 13, 2009	EFFECTIVE DATE January 23, 2009	NUMBER *SEE BELOW
SUBJECT Special Pharmaceutical Benefits Program (SPBP) – 2009 Federal Poverty Guidelines for SP1 Card Holders	 Michael Nardone, Deputy Secretary Office of Medical Assistance Programs	

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this bulletin is to notify providers of the 2009 Federal Poverty Guidelines that the Department of Public Welfare (Department) will use to determine income eligibility for applicants and current enrollees in the AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP) component of the Special Pharmaceutical Benefits Program (SPBP) (SP1 card holders).

SCOPE:

This bulletin is applicable to all providers enrolled in the Medical Assistance (MA) Program who render services to persons enrolled in the ADAP component of the SPBP.

BACKGROUND:

The Department issued Medical Assistance (MA) Bulletin Number 08-08-23 et al, Subject: Special Pharmaceutical Benefits Program - Updated Eligibility Criteria for SP1 Card Holders, effective December 5, 2008. This MA Bulletin:

1. Announced changes to income eligibility for the ADAP component of the SPBP (SP1 card holders).
2. Informed providers that the Department would publish a MA Bulletin announcing the updated poverty guidelines each year after they are published in the *Federal Register* by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

* 01-09-03 24-09-03
 08-09-03 28-09-02
 09-09-03 31-09-04
 21-09-02

COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS BULLETIN SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO:

The Special Pharmaceutical Benefits Program at:

Toll Free Telephone Number - 1-800-922-9384

E-mail Address - SPBP@state.pa.us

Mailing Address - SPBP, PO Box 8021, Harrisburg, PA 17105-8021

Visit the Office of Medical Assistance Programs' Web site at www.dpw.state.pa.us/omap

The income eligibility limit for SP1 applicants is 337% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines. The income eligibility limit is 500% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines for SP1 enrollees when the enrollee is actively participating in the ADAP component of SPBP and is in compliance with all other SPBP eligibility requirements. Actively participating in the ADAP component of SPBP is defined as having at least one claim for an SPBP SP1 covered drug or SPBP payment for the SP1 card holder's Medicare Part D premium during the 12 month period preceding the increase in income. SP1 enrollees who do not actively participate in the program are ineligible for SPBP.

DISCUSSION:

HHS published the 2009 Federal Poverty Guidelines in the *Federal Register* effective January 23, 2009. Accordingly, the income limits for SPBP SP1 applicants and current enrollees are as follows, effective January 23, 2009:

1. For SP1 Applicants - The annual income limit for an SP1 applicant is \$36,497 for an individual and \$12,604 for each additional family member.
2. For SP1 Enrollees who are actively participating and comply with all other SPBP eligibility requirements – The annual income limit is \$54,150 for an individual and \$18,700 for each additional family member.

PROCEDURES:

SPBP staff will apply the new 2009 income limits when determining initial eligibility for all new applications and ongoing eligibility for all eligibility recertifications effective January 23, 2009.

The Department is in the process of updating the SPBP application form posted on the website at the address listed below. If you are still using the hard copy Special Pharmaceutical Benefits Program Application, publication number MA 366 2/06, or printing out the application on the SPBP website before the form is updated, please ask the potential applicant to ignore the income limits listed on these application forms because they are out of date.

<http://www.dpw.state.pa.us/ServicesPrograms/MedicalAssistance/AIDSWaiverProgram/AIDSClozarilProgram/>