

(b) If refund cannot be made under paragraph (a) of this section, CMS refunds the premiums to the enrollee's survivors in the following order of priority:

(1) The surviving spouse, if he or she was either living in the same household with the deceased at the time of death, or was, for the month of death, entitled to monthly social security or railroad retirement benefits on the basis of the same earnings record as the deceased beneficiary;

(2) The child or children who were, for the month of death, entitled to monthly social security or railroad retirement benefits on the basis of the same earnings record as the deceased (and, if there is more than one child, in equal parts to each child);

(3) The parent or parents who were, for the month of death, entitled to monthly social security or railroad retirement benefits on the basis of the same earnings record as the deceased (and, if there is more than one parent, in equal parts to each parent);

(4) The surviving spouse who was not living in the same household with the deceased at the time of death and was not, for the month of death, entitled to monthly social security or railroad retirement benefits on the basis of the same earnings record as the deceased beneficiary;

(5) The child or children who were not entitled to monthly social security or railroad retirement benefits on the basis of the same earnings record as the deceased (and, if there is more than one child, in equal parts to each child);

(6) The parent or parents who were not entitled to monthly social security or railroad retirement benefits on the basis of the same earnings record as the deceased (and, if there is more than one parent, in equal parts to each parent).

If none of the listed relatives survives, no refund can be made.

Subpart H—Supplementary Medical Insurance Premium Surcharge Agreements

SOURCE: 67 FR 60996, Sept. 27, 2002, unless otherwise noted.

§ 408.200 Statutory basis.

This subpart implements provisions of section 1839(e) of the Social Security Act that allow State or local government agencies to enter into an agreement with the Secretary to pay, on a quarterly or other periodic basis, a lump sum for the total of the SMI premium late enrollment surcharge amounts due for a group of eligible enrollees.

§ 408.201 Definitions.

For purposes of this subpart, the following definitions apply:

SMI premium surcharge means the amount that the standard monthly SMI premium is increased for late enrollment or for reenrollment as specified in §§ 408.22 through 408.25.

SMI premium surcharge agreement means a written arrangement between the Secretary and a State or local government agency to pay, on a quarterly, monthly, or other periodic basis, a lump sum for the SMI premium surcharge amounts due for a designated group of eligible enrollees.

§ 408.202 Conditions for participation.

(a) A State or local government agency may apply to CMS to enter into an SMI premium surcharge agreement if the following conditions are met:

(1) Each individual designated for coverage under the premium surcharge agreement must be enrolled in Medicare Part B at the time the individual is added to the premium surcharge account.

(2) Each enrollee designated for coverage under the agreement must, at the time the individual is added to the premium surcharge account, be responsible for paying the base premium and surcharge through direct remittance or benefit withholding from Social Security or Railroad Retirement benefits or a Civil Service annuity.

(3) Each enrollee designated for coverage under the agreement must, at the time the individual is added to the premium surcharge account, not have premiums paid by a State Welfare Agency under a State buy-in agreement as described in § 407.40 of this chapter or under a group billing arrangement as described in § 408.80.

(b) The State or local government agency must secure from each enrollee a signed, written statement authorizing CMS to send billing notices directly to the State or local government agency, and to release to the State or local government agency information required under the SMI premium surcharge agreement.

(c) The authorization statement for each enrollee must be retained in the State or local government agency files for as long as the enrollee is covered by the agreement. These authorization statements need not be forwarded to CMS.

(d) The State or local government agency must certify to CMS, in writing, that an authorization statement is on file for each enrollee covered under the SMI premium surcharge agreement. Only one certification is necessary for the entire group of covered enrollees.

(e) A State or local government agency must establish an automated data exchange with CMS using the Third Party Premium Collection System, in order to transmit electronically an input file that will be used to add or remove enrollees from the billing system.

§ 408.205 Application procedures.

(a) A State or local government agency must contact its CMS regional office (RO) to request application materials.

(b) If interested in entering into an agreement, the State or local government agency must return to the RO two copies of the completed application materials.

(c) CMS reviews the application materials, and, when they are approved, notifies the State or local government agency, and the RO.

§ 408.207 Billing and payment procedures.

(a) *Adding and removing enrollees.* The State or local government agency must transmit an input file containing addition and removal records electronically to CMS as follows:

(1) Input files must be transmitted at least once each calendar month, but may be transmitted as often as once a day.

(2) CMS will not add or remove enrollees retroactively, except for removals upon the death of an enrollee.

(3) The State or local government agency must pay the SMI premium surcharge for each eligible enrollee who is included in the agreement for the time period beginning with the month the enrollee is added and continuing through the month the State or local government agency informs CMS that the enrollee is to be removed, the month the enrollee's Part B coverage terminates, or the month of the enrollee's death, whichever comes first.

(b) *Payment and grace period.* Payment must be made to CMS as follows:

(1) Payment to CMS must be received by CMS by the first day of each month.

(2) There is a 10-day grace period for receipt of payment.

(3) Payment must be made to CMS via electronic funds transfer.

(c) *Late payment penalties.* CMS may assess interest for any payment it does not receive by the first day of the month as follows:

(1) Interest will be assessed at the SMI trust fund rate as computed for new investments in accordance with section 1841(c) of the Act.

(2) Interest will be waived if the full payment is received by the 10th day of the month in which it is due.

(3) Interest will be calculated and assessed in 30-day increments.

(4) Interest will be assessed on the balance of the amount billed that remains unpaid at the expiration of the grace period and unpaid balances from prior periods.

(5) Interest will continue to accrue on unpaid amounts until the balance is paid in full.

(d) *Disagreement over billing amounts or interest.* If the State or local government agency disagrees with the amount assessed in a billing statement or interest charge, it must notify CMS as follows:

(1) The State or local government agency must provide evidence suitable to CMS to substantiate its claim.

(2) The State or local government agency must continue to make full payment while CMS evaluates the evidence provided.

(3) Credit for payment amounts or interest that CMS determines to be due

to the State or local government agency will be reflected as an adjustment in subsequent bills, effective on the date the corrected amount would have been due.

§ 408.210 Termination of SMI premium surcharge agreement.

(a) *Termination by the State or local government agency.* The State or local government agency may voluntarily terminate its agreement with CMS as follows:

(1) The State or local government agency must notify CMS, in writing, at least 30 days before the effective date of the termination.

(2) The State or local government agency must pay any unpaid premium surcharge amounts and interest due within 30 days after the effective date of the termination.

(3) Interest will continue to accrue until all amounts due are paid in full.

(b) *Termination by CMS.* CMS may terminate the agreement with a State or local government agency as follows:

(1) If a State or local government agency's payments are delinquent 30 days or more, CMS may terminate the agreement with 30 days advance notice.

(2) If the State or local government agency fails to comply with the terms of the agreement or procedures promulgated by CMS, CMS may terminate the agreement with 30 days advance notice.

(3) If CMS finds that the State or local government agency is not acting in the best interest of the enrollees, or CMS, or for any reason other than those in paragraphs (b)(1) and (b)(2) of this section, CMS may terminate the agreement at any time.

(4) The State or local government agency must pay all outstanding premium surcharge and any interest amounts due within 30 days after the effective date of the termination.

(5) Interest will continue to accrue until all amounts due are paid in full.

(6) After the agreement is terminated, CMS will resume collection of the premium surcharge from the enrollees covered under the terminated agreement.

(7) If an agreement is terminated by CMS, the State or local government agency must wait 3 years from the effective date of the termination before

it can request to enter into another SMI premium surcharge agreement.

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