

Implementation Guide: Medicaid State Plan Eligibility Ticket to Work Medical Improvements

Contents

POLICY CITATION	2
BACKGROUND	2
Overview	2
Characteristics	2
Financial Eligibility	3
REVIEWABLE UNIT DEPENDENCIES	5
INSTRUCTIONS.....	8
A. Characteristics	8
B. Financial Methodologies	8
C. Income Standard Used.....	10
D. Resource Standard Used.....	10
E. Premiums and Cost Sharing	10
F. Additional Information (Optional)	10
REVIEW CRITERIA.....	11

Ticket to Work Medical Improvements

POLICY CITATION

Statute: 1902(a)(10)(A)(ii)(XV)

BACKGROUND

Overview

This reviewable unit (RU) describes the Medicaid eligibility group for employed individuals age 16 through 64 who lost eligibility under the Ticket to Work Basic group because they no longer meet the disability requirements, but who still have a medical impairment. It provides the criteria under which individuals may be covered under this group, as well as the income and resource standards used.

The Ticket to Work Medical Improvements group is one of four eligibility groups collectively called the buy-in groups. If a state elects to cover one of these groups, the state may require individuals to “buy-in” to the group by paying premiums and cost sharing.

The buy-in groups are:

- Work Incentives
- Ticket to Work Basic
- Ticket to Work Medical Improvements
- Family Opportunity Act Children with a Disability

Each of the buy-in groups has its own eligibility requirements. States may apply less restrictive income and resource counting methodologies to any of these groups, using section 1902(r)(2) authority. A 209(b) state may also apply its more restrictive methodologies to these groups.

Characteristics

The Ticket to Work Medical Improvements group is an optional eligibility group established by section 1902(a)(10)(A)(ii)(XVI) of the Act. This eligibility group covers individuals who:

- Are at least 16 years old, but less than 65 years of age;
- Were previously eligible under the Ticket to Work Basic group, but lost eligibility under that group because, as a result of medical improvement, they were determined through a regularly scheduled disability review to no longer meet the definition of disability;
- Still have a severe medically determinable impairment;
- Are employed; and
- Have income and resources that do not exceed standards set by the State.

Disability

Section 1905(v)(1) of the Act provides the following disability-related requirements for the Ticket to Work Medical Improvements eligibility group:

1. The individual previously met the disability requirements of the Ticket to Work Basic eligibility group (i.e., the SSI definition of disability, except for the individual's earnings and work activities).
2. Due to medical improvement, the individual was determined at a regularly scheduled continuing disability review to no longer meet the definition of disability.
3. The individual continues to have a medically determinable severe impairment.

In the absence of guidance on the definition of a “medically determinable severe impairment,” states have flexibility to define this term to meet their needs. A state’s definition cannot be more restrictive than the disability definition established by the Social Security Administration.

Employment

Unlike the Ticket to Work Basic group, the Ticket to Work Medical Improvements eligibility group does include specific employment requirements. Section 1905(v)(1) of the Act defines an employed individual as one who:

- Earns at least the applicable minimum wage and works at least 40 hours per month, or
- Meets a “substantial and reasonable threshold” of hours of work, wages, or other measures, as established by a state and approved by CMS.

In establishing an alternative definition of employment, states are directed to use the statutory definition of employment (earning minimum wage and working at least 40 hours per month) as the baseline. However, recognizing that there is considerable diversity among people with disabilities, including relative degrees of disability, the employment opportunities available to them, and many other considerations that can affect types and amounts of employment, states may utilize the following flexibilities in establishing a definition.

1. Requirements that differ among clearly defined groups of individuals with disabilities. States may establish different levels of earnings and/or hours worked for identifiable groups of individuals with disabilities, provided the state can clearly define the group involved and explain why the proposed alternative definition is in fact reasonable and necessary for members of that group.
2. Alternative threshold criteria. Recognizing that people with disabilities may have access to employment and work opportunities where the number of hours worked or level of earnings is not the best or most valid measurement of the quality of the work effort, states may establish a different way to define employment, such as a unique definition of self-employment.

Financial Eligibility

Each state establishes its own income and resource standards for eligibility under the Ticket to Work Medical Improvements group. States have the flexibility to make the standards any amount they choose, and may also choose to have no income or resource standards at all. Unlike the Ticket to Work Basic group, a state does not have to determine, if it applies an income test for the Ticket to Work Medical Improvements group, that an individual would be eligible for SSI but for his or her earned income.

When an income or resource standard is established, SSI income and resource methodologies are used to determine eligibility. A separate RU, **Non-MAGI Methodologies**, describes the

methodologies used by the state, and more information about the methodologies can be found in the implementation guide that accompanies that RU. 209(b) states may apply their more restrictive eligibility requirements to this group, but they are not required to do so; they may choose to use the SSI methodologies.

Options: Less Restrictive Methodologies. States may apply less restrictive income and resource methodologies under section 1902(r)(2) of the Act. Additional information on less restrictive income and resource counting methodologies can be found in the implementation guides that accompany the Less Restrictive Income Methodologies under 1902(r)(2) screen and the Less Restrictive Resource Methodologies under 1902(r)(2) screen.

REVIEWABLE UNIT DEPENDENCIES

Many RUs in MACPro are dependent upon other RUs. Each time a primary RU is changed, there could be an effect on other, secondary RUs which are dependent on the primary. For example, in the **Mandatory Eligibility Groups** RU, there is a question as to whether the state covers the Adult Group. If *Yes* is selected, and if a box is checked to include the Adult Group in the submission package, then the **Adult Group** RU will be included by the system in the package and the user can navigate to it to complete it. If *No* is selected, the **Adult Group** RU will not be included in the package. In this example, the **Mandatory Eligibility Groups** RU is the *Primary RU* and the **Adult Group** RU is the *Secondary RU*. The **Adult Group** RU is considered to be dependent on selections made in the **Mandatory Eligibility Groups** RU.

Whenever a change in a primary RU may affect a secondary RU, you either need to revise the secondary RU (if it is already in the package) or add the secondary RU to the package so that it can be updated in the same submission package as the primary RU.

The following table explains the dependent relationships for the **Ticket to Work Medical Improvements** RU:

Primary RU	Secondary RU	Nature of Dependency	Actions Needed
Eligibility Determinations of Individuals Age 65 or Older or Who Have Blindness or a Disability	Ticket to Work Medical Improvements	Unless the Eligibility Determinations of Individuals Age 65 or Older or Who Have Blindness or a Disability RU (primary) has either been approved in MACPro or is included, completed and validated in the submission package, the Ticket to Work Medical Improvements RU (secondary) cannot be displayed.	If the secondary RU will not display because the primary RU is neither approved in MACPro nor included in the package: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add the primary RU to the package, complete it and validate it. • Alternatively, remove the secondary RU from the package.

Primary RU	Secondary RU	Nature of Dependency	Actions Needed
Eligibility Determinations of Individuals Age 65 or Older or Who Have Blindness or a Disability	Ticket to Work Medical Improvements	The selection of <i>209(b) State</i> , or <i>SSI Criteria</i> or <i>1634 State</i> as the basis for the eligibility determination in section A of the Eligibility Determinations of Individuals Age 65 or Older or Who Have Blindness or a Disability RU (primary) affects the requirements displayed in section B and C of the Ticket to Work Medical Improvements RU (secondary) with respect to deductions for incurred expenses.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You must complete, save and validate the primary RU before you can complete the secondary RU. • Once the primary RU is approved in MACPro, it does not have to be included again in a submission package unless the basis changes, in which case the secondary RU also has to be included again.
Optional Eligibility Groups	Ticket to Work Medical Improvements	Unless the Optional Eligibility Groups RU (primary) has either been approved in MACPro or is included, completed and validated in the submission package, with the Ticket to Work Basic eligibility group selected as included in the state plan, the Ticket to Work Medical Improvements RU (secondary) cannot be displayed.	<p>If the secondary RU will not display because the primary RU is neither approved in MACPro nor included in the package, with the Ticket to Work Basic eligibility group selected as included in the state plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add the primary RU to the package, complete it and validate it, with the Ticket to Work Basic eligibility group selected as included in the state plan. • Alternatively, remove the secondary RU from the package.
More Restrictive Requirements than SSI under 1902(f) - (209(b) States)	Ticket to Work Medical Improvements	<u>For 209(b) States Only:</u> Unless the More Restrictive Requirements than SSI under 1902(f) - (209(b) States) RU (primary) has either been approved in MACPro or is included, completed and validated in the submission package, the Ticket to Work Medical Improvements RU (secondary) cannot be displayed.	<p>If the secondary RU will not display because the primary RU is neither approved in MACPro nor included in the package:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add the primary RU to the package, complete it and validate it. • Alternatively, remove the secondary RU from the package.

Primary RU	Secondary RU	Nature of Dependency	Actions Needed
More Restrictive Requirements than SSI under 1902(f) - (209(b) States)	Ticket to Work Medical Improvements	For 209(b) States Only: The More Restrictive Requirements than SSI under 1902(f) - (209(b) States) RU (primary) must be approved or included in the same package in order for the user to view it from the Ticket to Work Medical Improvements RU (secondary).	Click on the <i>View...</i> link to see the most current version of the primary RU. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If the primary RU has been included in the package, that version will display. • If the primary RU has not been included in the package, the latest approved version will display.

INSTRUCTIONS

Where there are unique instructions for a 1634, SSI criteria, or 209(b) state, the reader will be directed to the appropriate instructions.

A. Characteristics

There are statements (A.1. through A.4.) describing the characteristics of this eligibility group.

- At A.4. *Are employed, using the following definition*, select one of the two options presented.
 - If A.4.b. *An alternative definition* is selected, enter a description of the alternative definition in the text box provided.

B. Financial Methodologies

For 1634 and SSI Criteria States Only

- At B.1., there is a statement that SSI methodologies are used in calculating household income for this eligibility group. A separate RU, **Non-MAGI Methodologies**, describes the Non-MAGI methodologies used by the state.

If you wish to view the approved methodologies, select the *View approved version of Non-MAGI Methodologies* link.

- The **Non-MAGI Methodologies** RU will appear if there is an approved version in the MACPro system.
 - If there is no approved version of the RU in MACPro, a screen will appear with the following message: “There is no approved version of this reviewable unit in MACPro available to display.”
 - Select the *Ticket to Work Medical Improvements* link to return to the **Ticket to Work Medical Improvements** RU.
- At B.2., select *Yes or No*, to indicate if less restrictive methodologies are used in calculating countable income.
 - If *Yes* is selected, click on the **Add/Modify Less Restrictive Methodologies** button.
 - When you have completed these screens, the less restrictive methodologies selected will be inserted into the **Ticket to Work Medical Improvements** RU. (See the implementation guides, **Less Restrictive Income Methodologies – Selection** and **Less Restrictive Income Methodologies** for how to complete these screens.)
- At B.3., select *Yes or No*, to indicate if less restrictive methodologies are used in calculating countable resources.
 - If *Yes* is selected, click on the **Add/Modify Less Restrictive Methodologies** button.
 - When you have completed these screens, the less restrictive methodologies selected will be inserted into the **Ticket to Work**

Medical Improvements RU. (See the implementation guides, **Less Restrictive Resource Methodologies – Selection** and **Less Restrictive Resource Methodologies** for how to complete these screens.)

For 209(b) States Only

- At **B.1.**, select **Yes** or **No**, to indicate if SSI methodologies are used in calculating household income and resources for this eligibility group.
 - If **Yes** is selected, there is a statement that the Non-MAGI methodologies used are described in the **Non-MAGI Methodologies** RU.

If you wish to view the approved methodologies, select the ***View approved version of Non-MAGI Methodologies*** link.

- The **Non-MAGI Methodologies** RU will appear if there is an approved version in the MACPro system.
- If there is no approved version of the RU in MACPro, a screen will appear with the following message: “There is no approved version of this reviewable unit in MACPro available to display.”
- Select the ***Ticket to Work Medical Improvements*** link to return to the **Ticket to Work Medical Improvements** RU.
- If **No** is selected, there is a statement that the more restrictive requirements used are described in the **More Restrictive Requirements than SSI under 1902(f) - (209(b) States)** RU.

If you wish to view the more restrictive requirements:

- If **More Restrictive Requirements than SSI under 1902(f) – (209(b) States)** is included in this submission package, select the ***View current version of More Restrictive Requirements than SSI under 1902(f) – (209(b) States)*** link to view the version included in this package.
 - If **More Restrictive Requirements than SSI under 1902(f) – (209(b) States)** is not included in the package, select the ***View approved version of More Restrictive Requirements than SSI under 1902(f) – (209(b) States)*** link to view the approved version.
 - The appropriate **More Restrictive Requirements than SSI under 1902(f) – (209(b) States)** RU will appear for viewing.
 - Select the ***Ticket to Work Medical Improvements*** link to return to the **Ticket to Work Medical Improvements** RU.
- At **B.2.**, select **Yes** or **No**, to indicate if less restrictive methodologies are used in calculating countable income.
 - If **Yes** is selected, click on the **Add/Modify Less Restrictive Methodologies** button.
 - When you have completed these screens, the less restrictive methodologies selected will be inserted into the **Ticket to Work Medical Improvements** RU. (See the implementation guides, **Less**

Restrictive Income Methodologies – Selection and Less Restrictive Income Methodologies for how to complete these screens.)

- At **B.3.**, select *Yes* or *No*, to indicate if less restrictive methodologies are used in calculating countable resources.
 - If *Yes* is selected, click on the **Add/Modify Less Restrictive Methodologies** button.
 - When you have completed these screens, the less restrictive methodologies selected will be inserted into the **Ticket to Work Medical Improvements** RU. (See the implementation guides, **Less Restrictive Resource Methodologies – Selection and Less Restrictive Resource Methodologies** for how to complete these screens.)

C. Income Standard Used

Select one of the five options presented to describe the income standard used.

- If **C.2. *A percentage of the federal poverty level*** is selected, enter a percentage in the text box provided.
- If **C.3. *A percentage of the SSI Federal Benefit Rate*** is selected, enter a percentage in the text box provided.
- If **C.4. *A dollar amount*** is selected, click the **Add Income Standard** button.
 - The screen will display four options for entering this amount.
 - Select the option that best corresponds to the state’s dollar amount income standards.
 - Complete the appropriate sections within the selected option to indicate the state’s income standards. See the **Income Standards Entry** implementation guide for detailed instructions for updating these fields.
 - When you have completed this screen, select the **Save Income Standard** button. After saving the income standards they will be inserted into the **Ticket to Work Medical Improvements** RU.
- If **C.5. *Other*** is selected, describe the standard in the text box provided.

D. Resource Standard Used

Select one of the options presented to describe the resource standard used.

If **D.4. *A dollar amount higher than the SSI resource standard*** is selected, enter the standards for single individual and couple in the text box provided. Make sure that the amount entered exceeds the SSI resource standard.

E. Premiums and Cost Sharing

There is a statement that these requirements are found in the premium and cost sharing sections of the state plan.

F. Additional Information (Optional)

Except in limited circumstances, this field remains blank. Please consult with CMS before adding any additional information concerning this RU.

REVIEW CRITERIA

If A.4.b. An alternative definition is selected, the description of the definition of “employed” must be sufficiently clear, detailed and complete to permit the reviewer to determine that the state’s description meets the applicable federal statutory, regulatory and policy requirements.

If D.4. A dollar amount higher than the SSI resource standard is selected, the amount entered must exceed the SSI resource standard.

The less restrictive methodologies entered must be sufficiently clear, detailed and complete to permit the reviewer to determine that the state’s description meets applicable federal statutory, regulatory and policy requirements.