

**Policy Clarifications –
Cash Assistance – All
Medicaid – All
SNAP
PCA-17827-150
PMA-17827-372
PFS-17827-572**

Submitted: 01/16

Agency: CAOs

Subject: Increase in Gross Social Security Income and Medicare Part B Premium Effective January 2016

Question: Workers have been reporting that they are receiving BENDEX Data Exchange 3 hits indicating an increase of the gross Social Security income and Medicare Part B premium by \$0.90.

Why has there been an increase to the Social Security income and Medicare Part B premium when there isn't a Cost of Living Adjustment in 2016?

Response By: Bureau of Policy

Date: 01/14/2016

This is an accurate increase which has been verified by the Social Security Administration. This income and premium increase does not affect everyone. This situation should only apply to individuals who are self-paying their Medicare Part B premium. The changes to gross income and the Medicare Part B premium should be updated in eCIS to ensure the recipient is receiving the correct benefit amount and medical deduction where applicable.

When a Data Exchange 3 hit is received, workers must review and:

- Update gross Social Security income on the Unearned Income screen,
- Update the Medicare Part B premium on the Medical Expense screen as the program(s) require,
- Run eligibility and send appropriate notice if the benefit changes in any way.

Workers are to act on these hits and issue updated notices per program requirements.

Refer to [PMN-17807-472](#) for additional information on this increase and its effect on long term care cases.