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FIELD OPERATIONS MEMO 97-05
JANUARY 3, 1997

TO: LOCAL OFFICE STAFF
FROM: JOYCE SAMPSON, ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR FIELD OPERATIONS
RE: 1997 RSDI/SSI COLA For AFDC/TAFDC, EAEDC and FS

Introduction

The yearly COLA has been scheduled. This Field Operations Memo gives you the dates for each category and when the new amounts for RSDI and SSI can be used.

Effective January 1, 1997, RSDI (Social Security) benefits increased by 2.9 percent; SSI payments increased and base Medicare Part B premiums increased from \$42.50 to \$43.80 per month.

PACES Actions

PACES will update all ongoing cases with 1997 RSDI (Type A) and/or SSI (Type 1) income to affect February benefits according to the following schedule. Use old (pre-January 1997) RSDI amounts when updating ongoing cases and establishing new or reopened cases data-entered up to the date in the table below.

Category, SSNs	Last Data Entry (old amount)	Scheduled COLA Date
9, SSNs 0-9	1/15/97	1/16/97
0,2,4, SSNs 0-5	1/8/97	1/9/97
0,2,4, SSNs 6-9	1/22/97	1/23/97

**PACES Actions
(cont.)**

If at (re)application the old RSDI amounts are not available, use the new RSDI amounts. Keep a manual list of these cases to review after the COLA. Entering the new amounts before the scheduled COLA date causes cases to be erroneously increased a second time.

Reports

Reports will be issued after the COLA is completed and should be received by local offices during the first week in February. You will be receiving detailed instructions about the reports and general information about the COLA in Field Operations Memo 97-04.

Please note: If there are recipient questions before receipt of the reports, use the BENDEX and SDX inquiry screens which were updated on 1/2/97 to reflect the new (January 1997) RSDI, SSI and Medicare premium amounts.

Questions

If you have any questions have your designee call the Policy Hotline at (617) 348-8478.
