



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

DIVISION OF MEDICAL ASSISTANCE AND HEALTH SERVICES

CN 712

TRENTON, NEW JERSEY 08625

(609) 588-2600

ALAN J. GIBBS
Commissioner

SAUL M. KILSTEIN
Director

MEDICAID COMMUNICATION NO: 92-6

DATE: February 5, 1992

TO: County Welfare Agency Directors

SUBJECT: Protection of Medicaid Eligibility for Disabled Widows and Widowers Losing SSI Benefits as a Result of the Receipt of Title II Benefits

A recent change in Federal regulations provides for a special protection of Medicaid benefits for disabled widow(er)s and surviving divorced spouses (DWBs) who, as a result of a more liberal definition of disability, are now eligible for Title II benefits. These individuals who lose their SSI eligibility as a result of the receipt of Title II benefits can continue to receive Medicaid benefits through the county welfare agency **until they are eligible for Medicare Part A benefits**. This is similar to the protection of Medicaid eligibility for certain disabled widows and widowers losing SSI because of Early Aged Title II benefits as explained in Medicaid Communication No. 88-26.

Background:

The elimination of the more restrictive disability test for disabled widow(er)s and disabled surviving divorced spouses effective January 1, 1991, has resulted in a number of individuals being eligible for Title II benefits who previously did not qualify. For those individuals receiving SSI payments, the increase in benefits may cause them to lose SSI eligibility and related Medicaid benefits. As a result, Congress created a new "protected class", similar to the existing Medicaid continuation for former SSI eligibles, who lost benefits due to COLA adjustments or receipt of Adult Disabled Children's or Early Widows/Widowers Title II payments.

Process:

To determine eligibility, a disregard equal to the amount of the Title II benefit is applied to the countable income. In addition, the regulation provides that each month of eligibility for SSI will count toward the individual's 24-month Medicare waiting period. This means that the normal wait for entitlement to Medicare can be greatly reduced or even eliminated, depending on the length of time the individual has been receiving SSI benefits. Therefore, it is critical to identify and track Medicare entitlement to determine whether the individual is initially eligible and when Medicaid eligibility should be terminated based on a reduced waiting period.

To assist in confirming the status of potential eligibles, incoming SDX records will contain a "W" in the Medicaid eligibility code field. This currently appears on the SINQ screen of your OTIS terminal (see attachment). On the SDX fiche, the Medicaid eligibility field is immediately below "H" in the series "A" through "S" on the third information line on the extreme right-hand side of the record. The SDX will also show the amount of the Social Security benefit in the month prior to the loss of the SSI and the current Social Security benefit amount. Unfortunately, Medicare information is not available from that source. Initially, it will have to be obtained from the Social Security Administration directly or through Third-Party Query. As soon as a record request is processed, it will be available through the ABIE system, which is currently accessed through the FAMIS network, or alternatively by contact with the Division's Buy-In Unit at (609) 588-4647. The information on the SDX fiche should be available by February, 1992.

Note: In coding the affected widows/widowers, SSA made no distinction between the new disabled group and the existing early retirement group. However, the only difference in the processing of these cases is the potential for receiving constructive credit towards the 24-month disability waiting period which only applies to those individuals receiving Title II disability benefits.

To facilitate processing, a monthly listing of those persons who, according to Social Security Administration records reside in your county and may be eligible for this disregard, is being developed. The printout, which is sorted by Social Security number, includes each individual's current Title II benefit amount (unearned income) and their payment status code as well as the date these transactions were processed by the State (process date). Each of the listed individuals should have received a special "denial" notification, sample attached. This report will not be made available to each county until the end of January, 1992 due to delays in resolving data problems with the material received from Social Security Administration.

This information should be brought to the attention of the appropriate staff. Please refer any questions to the field staff assigned to your county.

Sincerely,


for Saul M. Kilstein
Director

SMK:Jd

Attachments

cc: Marion Reitz, Director
Division of Economic Assistance

Nicholas Scalera, Director
Division of Youth and Family Services

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STATE OF N. J. - MEDICAID ELIGIBILITY SYSTEM

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SSI INQUIRY

SSN :

NAME LAST :

FIRST :

MI :

SSI ADDRESS

LINE 1:

LINE 2:

LINE 3:

LINE 4:

LINE 5:

LINE 6:

ZIP:

MEDICAID CASE # :

DATE OF BIRTH :

ELIGIBILITY DATE :

TRAN CODE :

TERM / DENIAL DATE :

PAYMENT STATUS CODE :

PRIOR CASE # :

FED LIVING ARRANGEMENT :

SSI TRANSACTION DATE :

STATE LIVING ARRANGEMENT :

TRAN DATE RECEIVED :

SSI MONTHLY ASSISTANCE :

SITUATION CODE :

MASTERFILE TYPE :

COUNTY CODE :

MEDICAID ELIGIBILITY CODE : W

ELIGIBILITY STATUS :

MEDICAID TEST IND :

TPL INDICATOR :

STATE SUPPLEMENT AMOUNT (E) :

STATE SUPPLEMENT AMOUNT (R) :

RESOURCES : HOUSE-
UNEARNED INCOME : TYPE-

LIFE-

INCOME PROD PROF-
AMOUNT-

CARD DATES :

ENTER = PROCESS CLEAR = END



STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF MEDICAL ASSISTANCE AND HEALTH SERVICES

Alan J. Gibbs
Commissioner

Saul M. Kilstein
Director

DATE

SSN

We have received information from the Social Security Administration (SSA) that you are no longer eligible to receive a Supplemental Security Income (SSI) payment, because of a change in your income. This change was due to your recent entitlement to a special Social Security widows/widowers benefit which caused your income to exceed the SSI income standard. As a result, your SSI related Medicaid benefits will terminate at the end of this month.

However, if the only reason that you lost SSI was due to the receipt of this Social Security payment, your Medicaid may be re-opened and can continue **until you become entitled to Medicare.**

This benefit is not automatic. If you feel that you may qualify for Medicaid continuation and wish to make application, or if you want more information, contact your county welfare agency. The address and telephone number is listed on the reverse side of this letter.

If you do not agree with the termination of benefits relating to SSI, and you wish to appeal the decision, you must contact the Social Security District Office.

NOTE PLEASE TAKE THIS LETTER WITH YOU IF YOU GO TO THE COUNTY WELFARE AGENCY.

COUNTY WELFARE AGENCIES

Atlantic County Department of Social Services Division of Welfare 1333 Atlantic Avenue, P.O. Box 869 Atlantic City, NJ 08401 (609) 348-3001	Middlesex County Board of Social Services P.O. Box 509 181 Howe Lane - Route 27 New Brunswick, NJ 08903 (908) 745-3500
Bergen County Board of Social Services 216 Route 17 North 17 Park Office Center, Bldg. A Rochelle Park, NJ 07662-3300 (201) 368-4200	Monmouth County Board of Social Services P.O. Box 3000 - Kozloski Road Freehold, NJ 07728 (908) 431-6000
Burlington County Welfare Board Burlington County Human Services Facility 1015 Woodlane Rd. Mount Holly, NJ 08060-3316 (609) 261-1000	Morris County Board of Social Services Mt. Pleasant Complex, Bldg. C 1719 Route 10 Parsippany, NJ 07054 (201) 326-7800
Camden County Board of Social Services County Administration Building P.O. Box 2798 - 600 Market Street Camden, NJ 08101-2798 (609) 757-8800	Ocean County Board of Social Services P.O. Box 547 - 1027 Hooper Avenue Toms River, NJ 08754-0547 (908) 349-1500
Cape May County Welfare Agency Social Services Building P.O. Box 222, Routes 47 & 9 Rio Grande, NJ 08242 (609) 886-6200	Passaic County Board of Social Services 80 Hamilton Street Paterson, NJ 07505-2057 (201) 881-0100
Cumberland County Welfare Agency 13 North East Boulevard Vineland, NJ 08360 (609) 691-4800	Salem County Welfare Agency P.O. Box 111 - 147 S. Virginia Avenue Penns Grove, NJ 08069 (609) 299-7200
Essex County Department of Citizen Services Division of Welfare 18 Rector Street - 9th Floor Newark, NJ 07102 (201) 733-3000	Somerset County Board of Social Services P.O. Box 936 - 73 East High Street Somerville, NJ 08876 (908) 526-8800
Gloucester County Board of Social Services 400 Hollydell Drive Sewell, NJ 08080-9318 (609) 582-9200	Sussex County Division of Welfare P.O. Box 218 - 18 Church Street Newton, NJ 07860-0218 (201) 383-3800
Hudson County Division of Welfare John F. Kennedy Office Building 100 Newkirk Street Jersey City, NJ 07306 (201) 420-3000	Union County Division of Social Services & Special Community Projects 80 Broad Street Elizabeth, NJ 07201 (908) 965-2700
Hunterdon County Board of Social Services Community Services Center 6 Gauntt Place Flemington, NJ 08822 (908) 788-1300	Warren County Welfare Board Court House Annex - Second & Hardwick Streets Belvidere, NJ 07823 (908) 475-4744
Mercer County Board of Social Services 80 Woolverton Street, CN 01450 Trenton, NJ 08650 (609) 989-4320	