



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF MEDICAL ASSISTANCE AND HEALTH SERVICES

CHRISTINE TODD WHITMAN
Governor

MICHELE K. GUHL
Commissioner

MARGARET A. MURRAY
Director

MEDICAID COMMUNICATION NO. 98-24

December 22, 1998

TO: County Welfare Agency Directors

SUBJECT: Continued Medicaid Eligibility for Certain SSI Ineligibles

Continued Medicaid eligibility exists for those individuals who became ineligible for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) as the result of the January 1, 1999 cost-of-living increase in Social Security benefits. To ensure continuity of Medicaid benefits, potentially eligible individuals will be issued cards in the December run that are valid through January 31, 1999. Effective February 1, 1999, CWAs will have ongoing responsibility for those individuals. The Division of Medical Assistance and Health Services (DMAHS) will send each individual a letter (sample copy attached) explaining this, on or about December 30, 1998.

A printout has been prepared from the Social Security Administration's (SSA) file which lists those individuals residing in your county. Attached is that portion of the printout pertaining to your county. Using the printout, the CWA shall prepare, by February 1, 1999, Form FD-346, **Certification In Lieu of Application for Medical Assistance Only** (copy attached for CWA reproduction) for appropriate cases.

Form FD-346 will provide authorization for "Medicaid Only" benefits until redetermination, at which time an application (Form PA-1G, Application and Affidavit for Medical Assistance Only and Emergency Assistance for SSI Recipients) must be completed. Since the SDX does not reflect a federal redetermination date, CWAs must schedule a redetermination of eligibility for "Medicaid Only" purposes within twelve months.

Continuing eligibility for Medicaid benefits must be redetermined in accordance with all existing program requirements. Individuals eligible under this special provision shall be afforded an additional disregard from income of the actual dollar amount of the 1.3 percent Social Security benefit cost-of-living increase of January 1, 1999. Any subsequent Title II cost-of-living increase will also be disregarded for those individuals. Additionally, this disregard shall be applied to income which is deemed from all financially responsible relatives (i.e., spouse and parents). This disregard applies only to that special class of individuals and shall not be applied to other Medicaid applicants/recipients.

For those individuals determined ineligible for Medicaid benefits for reasons other than the Title II cost-of-living increase, the CWA must act to evaluate eligibility for other programs, i.e., New Jersey Care...Special Medicaid Programs, or terminate the case on the Medicaid Eligibility File. As in the past, "Medicaid Only" eligibility (nonpayment cases) terminated due to the Social Security increase is not affected by this provision. Note that the SSA file which was forwarded to the states this year contained only those individuals who were terminated from SSI eligibility due to an increase in Title II income payable in January of 1999. The Medicaid Eligibility File will automatically be updated to reflect non-money Program Status Codes (120, 220, 520) and to maintain eligibility for those individuals.

This information is to be brought to the attention of appropriate staff. Questions may be directed to your Medicaid field staff or Douglas Eide, Office of Information Systems, at (609) 588-2897.

Sincerely,



Margaret A. Murray
Director

MAM:E
Attachments

c Len Fishman, Commissioner
Susan C. Reinhard, Ph.D., Deputy Commissioner
Department of Health and Senior Services

David Heins, Acting Director
Division of Family Development

Charles Venti, Director
Division of Youth and Family Services