



State of New Jersey

**DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF MEDICAL ASSISTANCE AND HEALTH SERVICES**

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES
QUAKERBRIDGE PLAZA—BUILDING 5 & 7 & 12
QUAKERBRIDGE ROAD
TRENTON, NEW JERSEY 08619

ADDRESS REPLY TO:
CN-712
TRENTON, NEW JERSEY 08625

MEDICAID COMMUNICATION NO. 88-19

DATE: May 24, 1988

TO: County Welfare Agency Directors

SUBJECT: Extended Application Period for Certain Disabled Widows and Widowers

The Division of Public Welfare's Program Instruction No. 86-12-8, issued December 31, 1986, advised of a special restoration of Medicaid benefits for certain disabled widows and widowers who lost Supplemental Security Income (SSI) eligibility because of the elimination of the reduction factor used to calculate their Social Security benefits. That instruction specified that there would be no special eligibility consideration for any members of the affected group applying for Medicaid after June 30, 1987.

The Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1987 contains a provision extending the Medicaid application deadline for these widows and widowers. The new deadline for entitlement of special eligibility consideration is July 1, 1988. Therefore, any person applying by the new deadline and meeting the criteria specified in Program Instruction 86-12-8 shall be entitled to a disregard of the one-time adjustment to their Social Security benefit as well as any Social Security cost-of-living increase subsequent to that adjustment.

Any questions should be referred to the field service staff assigned to your county.

Sincerely,

Thomas M. Russo, Director
Division of Medical Assistance
and Health Services

TMR:Hh

cc: Odella T. Welch
Deputy Commissioner

Marion E. Reitz, Director
Division of Public Welfare

William Waldman, Director
Division of Youth and Family Services

New Jersey Is An Equal Opportunity Employer



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF PUBLIC WELFARE

AUDREY HARRIS
Director

Address Reply to:
CN 716
Trenton, New Jersey 08625

December 31, 1986

Program Instruction No. 86-12-8

TO: COUNTY WELFARE AGENCY DIRECTORS

Subject: Medicaid Benefits for Disabled Widows and Widowers

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The Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1985 (COBRA) restores Medicaid benefits for certain disabled widows and widowers who were concurrent recipients of Social Security disability benefits and Supplemental Security Income (SSI). Those individuals had their SSI benefits (and Medicaid) terminated because of the elimination of the reduction factor used to calculate their Social Security benefits which resulted in an increase in Social Security disability benefits sufficient to cause ineligibility for the SSI Program. To qualify for this restoration of Medicaid coverage, affected persons must file a written application before July 1, 1987. Potentially eligible individuals have been identified and will be sent a notice (copy attached) advising them of possible Medicaid eligibility.

A determination of eligibility for Medicaid coverage as categorically needy will be made if the widow or widower:

- 1) was entitled to benefits under Title II of the Social Security Act for December 1983;
- 2) was entitled to and received widow's or widower's benefits based on a disability for the month of January 1984;
- 3) became ineligible for SSI due to the increase in Social Security benefits resulting from the elimination of the reduction factor for widows and widowers who became entitled to benefits between the ages of 50 and 59;
- 4) has been continuously entitled to widow's or widower's benefits from the first month the increase was received; and
- 5) would be eligible for SSI if the increase and any cost-of-living increases subsequent to January 1984 were disregarded.

Except for Cape May and Salem counties for which no potential eligibles have been identified, attached is a printout of those persons identified by the Social Security Administration as meeting the first four criteria above and as residing in your county. The printout for each county is sorted both alphabetically by last name and by Social Security number.

Also attached is a list of the identified individuals with the amount of their January 1984 Social Security benefit, the current benefit (before the January 1987 cost-of-living adjustment) and the total amount of income to be disregarded (including the widow's/widower's adjustment and cost-of-living adjustments through December 1986).

For any person who applies for Medicaid under this provision, the CWA shall disregard from the amount of Social Security the amount indicated for that person on the attached list. For Medicaid eligibility for January 1, 1987 and thereafter, the CWA shall also disregard the amount of the January 1987 cost-of-living adjustment in Social Security as well as all future cost-of-living adjustments.

Note: The Social Security Administration does not continue to make disability determinations for disabled widows and widowers after they have attained the age of 60. Any such applicant 60 to 65 years of age must be referred to the Bureau of Medical Affairs for a disability determination prior to a finding of eligibility.

In order to protect maximum eligibility for retroactive entitlement, any person applying for Medicaid under this special provision by January 31, 1987 will be deemed to have applied in October 1986. Consequently, such persons' retroactive coverage may extend back to July 1986. For persons with unpaid medical expenses, the CWA shall evaluate an individual's eligibility for the period of July through the date of application. The individual's eligibility date will be the earliest date all factors of eligibility were met but no earlier than July 1, 1986. The CWA shall issue a Medicaid Card valid from the first of the month in which eligibility was established through the current month (if the individual continues to be eligible).

Persons determined eligible for periods prior to the month of application shall be advised to request that their medical providers submit bills for medical expenses to the appropriate Medicaid fiscal agent, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of New Jersey or the Prudential Insurance Co. of America. If normal timeliness standards for submission are exceeded, a letter of justification must accompany their bill(s). Persons applying under this process after January 31, 1987 will only be eligible for a maximum of three months retroactive eligibility. Again, the CWAs are requested to issue Medicaid Cards valid for the period of retroactive eligibility, if any. There is no eligibility for Medicaid for any person applying after June 30, 1987.

This information is to be brought to the attention of appropriate staff. Questions may be directed to Bonnie Vastano, Office of Eligibility Policy, Division of Medical Assistance and Health Services, at (609) 588-2556.

Sincerely,



Audrey Harris, Director
Division of Public Welfare

AH:CMD:SRr

Attachments

cc: Odella Welch
Deputy Commissioner

Director's Office
Division of Youth and Family Services

Thomas M. Russo, Director
Division of Medical Assistance and Health Services



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NEW JERSEY MEDICAID PROGRAM
IMPORTANT NOTICE

Dear Client:

If you are a disabled widow or widower who formerly received SSI (Supplemental Security Income) benefits, please read this notice about possible eligibility for Medicaid benefits.

A recent amendment to federal law has restored Medicaid eligibility for certain disabled widows and widowers between the ages of 50 and 59 who were terminated from SSI due to an increase in their Social Security benefits. You have been identified by the Social Security Administration as potentially eligible for Medicaid under this special provision.

You may also be entitled to up to three months of retroactive Medicaid coverage based on the month in which you apply for benefits.

Important: If you apply for Medicaid by January 31, 1987, you may be eligible for retroactive Medicaid for unpaid bills for the period of July 1986 through the date of your application.

To determine if you are eligible, telephone your county welfare agency to arrange to file a written application. For your convenience, the address and telephone number of each county welfare agency is listed on the reverse side of this notice.

When you or your representative go to the county welfare agency to apply, bring this notice with you.

Please note, applications for Medicaid benefits under this special provision of federal law will not be accepted after June 30, 1987.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Thomas M. Russo".

Thomas M. Russo, Director
Division of Medical Assistance
and Health Services

TMR:Vd

June 1976

COUNTY WELFARE AGENCIES

DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICAL ASSISTANCE
AND VOLUNTARY SERVICES

Atlantic	1333 Atlantic Ave., Atlantic City, NJ 08401	(609) 348-3001 Ext. 2805
Bergen	377 Route 17 So., Hasbrouck Hgts., NJ 07604	(201) 393-4500
Burlington	Lumberton Plaza, Rt. 38 & Eayrestown Rd. Mount Holly, NJ 08060	(609) 261-1000
Camden	600 Market Street, Camden, NJ 08101	(609) 757-8800
Cape May	Rtes. 47 & 9, Rio Grande, NJ 08242	(609) 729-9200
Cumberland	13 No. East Boulevard, Vineland, NJ 08360	(609) 691-4600
Essex	498 Main Street, 2nd floor Orange, NJ 07051	(201) 733-3031
Gloucester	400 Hollydell Drive, Sewell, NJ 08080	(609) 582-9200
Hudson	John F. Kennedy Office Bldg., 100 Newkirk St. Jersey City, NJ 07306	(201) 420-3000
Hunterdon	Community Services Center, 6 Gauntt Place Flemington, NJ 08822	(201) 788-1300
Mercer	200 Woolverton Street, Trenton, NJ 08650	(609) 989-4415
Middlesex	390 George Street, 8th floor New Brunswick, NJ 08903	(201) 745-3760
Monmouth	Kozloski Road, Freehold, NJ 07728	(201) 431-6395
Morris	County Service Building, West Hanover Avenue Morris Plains, NJ 07960	(201) 829-8620
Ocean	1027 Hooper Avenue, Toms River, NJ 08754	(201) 349-1500
Passaic	80 Hamilton Street, Paterson, NJ 07505	(201) 881-0100
Salem	98 Market Street, Salem, NJ 08079	(609) 935-7510
Somerset	73 East High Street, Somerville, NJ 08876	(201) 526-8800
Sussex	18 Church Street, Newton, NJ 07860	(201) 383-3600
Union	317 East Front Street, Plainfield, NJ 07060	(201) 754-0860
Warren	Court House, Second & Hardwick Streets Belvidere, NJ 07823	(201) 475-5361