



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF MEDICAL ASSISTANCE AND HEALTH SERVICES

CHRISTINE TODD WHITMAN
Governor

WILLIAM WALDMAN
Commissioner

MEDICAID COMMUNICATION NO. 98-1 **DATE:** January 16, 1998

TO: County Welfare Agency Directors

SUBJECT: Implementation of the New Jersey Care...Special Medicaid
Program Expansion

The Balanced Budget Act of 1997 expanded Title XIX of the Social Security Act (Medicaid) and created Title XXI, also referred to as the "Children's Health Insurance Program Initiative." Title XXI was created to provide insurance coverage to targeted low-income uninsured children. In New Jersey, this program will be known as NJ KidCare. As a part of this initiative, New Jersey Care...Special Medicaid programs has been expanded.

Effective February 1, 1998, for children who do not have access to or cannot afford health coverage, income eligibility requirements under New Jersey Care are increased. For children age 6 and older the income eligibility requirement has increased from 100 percent to 133 percent of the federal poverty level and the age limits are extended to children up to and including age 18. For this population only, these children must be uninsured for a minimum of twelve (12) calendar months prior to application.

These new beneficiaries are eligible to receive all of the same benefits as a Medicaid beneficiary enrolled in the New Jersey Care 2000 managed health care program (including the benefits that are covered as fee-for-service). Further information concerning these services is available in N.J.A.C. 10:49-5.2.

In order to make the enrollment process as user-friendly as possible, face-to-face interviews are **no longer** required when applying for NJ KidCare or **AFDC related** New Jersey Care...Special Medicaid programs. Redeterminations (required every six [6] months) for this same population may also be done **without** a face-to-face interview. Form FD-335 and the necessary attachments may be mailed from the CWAs to potential applicants. Applicants will have a choice of a face-to-face interview or may mail back the application with all necessary documentation.

Any cases which were or may be denied should be reevaluated under the new program expansion criteria and, if found eligible, may be eligible effective February 1, 1998. Also, any existing case with ineligible children who may meet the criteria for New Jersey Care expansion may have those additional children added to the case effective

February 1, 1998. No case evaluated under the expanded Medicaid criteria may be made eligible any earlier than February 1, 1998.

In order to isolate the new populations covered by the **Medicaid expansion of New Jersey Care...Special Medicaid Programs (Plan A)**, two new Program Status Codes (PSCs) were developed. These PSCs are to be used by the CWAs when entering eligibility into the Medicaid Eligibility System.

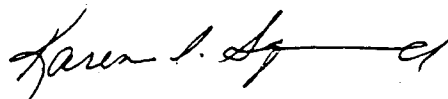
- **PSC 484:** born **before** 10-01-83, up to age 19 (the month in which the 19th birthday falls), up to and including 100% Federal Poverty Level (FPL), with **no** private, comprehensive TPL coverage in effect during the preceding 12 month period, prior to the eligibility effective date.
- **PSC 485:** age 6 to age 19 (the month in which the 19th birthday falls), above 100% FPL, up to and including 133% FPL, with **no** private, comprehensive TPL in effect during the preceding 12 month period, prior to the eligibility effective date.

Further detailed communication concerning Title XXI, for children up to and including 18 years of age, whose family income is at or less than 200% of the federal poverty level, will be forthcoming in the near future.

Following in the near future, in Office of Administrative Law format, will be revisions to the New Jersey Administrative Code.

Questions should be referred to the Medicaid District Offices' field service staff assigned to your county.

Sincerely,



Karen I. Squarrell
Acting Director

KIS:G

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

Karen Highsmith, Director
Division of Family Development

Michele Guhl, Deputy Commissioner
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