



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF MEDICAL ASSISTANCE AND HEALTH SERVICES

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JAMES E. MCGREEVEY
Governor

GWENDOLYN L. HARRIS
Commissioner

KATHRYN A. PLANT
Director

MEDICAID COMMUNICATION NO. 02 - 22 DATE: October 29, 2002

TO: County Welfare Agency Directors
New Jersey Care...Special Medicaid Programs liaisons

SUBJECT: New Jersey Supplemental Prenatal Care Program (NJSPCP)

This is to advise you of an immediate change in case processing for pregnant women receiving ambulatory prenatal care services through the New Jersey Supplemental Prenatal Care Program (NJSPCP). The NJSPCP is a program that provides limited prenatal care services to pregnant women who meet the eligibility requirements for New Jersey Care...Special Medicaid Programs, except for the citizenship or immigrant requirements.

As initially instructed in Medicaid Communication 02-09, dated February 6, 2002, the NJSPCP was implemented with funds appropriated through the State Fiscal Year 2002 Appropriations Act. More recently, additional funding was included in the State Fiscal Year 2003 Appropriation Act for continuation of the program through both hospital and clinic presumptive eligibility sites.

As a result of the overwhelming success of this program, it has come to our attention that the **hospitals'** portion of State Fiscal Year 2003 funding has been exhausted. Therefore, the Division of Medical Assistance and Health Services' Presumptive Eligibility Unit will no longer accept and/or process initial Certifications of Presumptive Eligibility submitted by hospitals for pregnant women who would have been eligible for benefits under the NJSPCP. In addition, no further extensions of presumptive eligibility will be granted for those pregnant women who were currently receiving benefits through the hospitals. All unprocessed initial certifications and extension requests submitted by the hospitals will be returned to the Presumptive Eligibility Coordinators by the DMAHS.

The validation of NJSPCP eligibility by your agencies is no longer required for cases initiated through hospital provider sites. At this time, you will be responsible only for determining eligibility for labor and delivery services through the Medical Emergency Payment Program for Aliens for these cases.

Please be advised, however, that the **clinics'** portion of the State Fiscal Year 2003 funding **has not yet been exhausted**. Therefore, the Presumptive Eligibility Unit will continue to process initial Certifications of Presumptive Eligibility submitted by the clinics for pregnant women who are eligible for benefits under the NJSPCP, and will continue to grant extensions of presumptive eligibility for those pregnant women who are currently receiving benefits, so long as the funding remains available.

Your agencies will continue to validate NJSPCP eligibility for cases initiated through clinic sites, as well as process eligibility for the Medical Emergency Payment Program for Aliens to cover labor and delivery services for these cases.

Please be aware that the DMAHS has reminded clinic sites that the NJSPCP is not an entitlement program, and therefore, once these funds are exhausted, the program will close, with no further prenatal services being paid for these pregnant women. Should this happen, you will be so advised promptly.

We appreciate your assistance in assuring that every pregnant woman is given the opportunity to access quality prenatal care, which will ultimately improve her chances of delivering a healthy newborn.

If you have any questions concerning this information, please contact the Presumptive Eligibility Unit at (609) 588-2911.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kathryn A. Plant", written over a horizontal line.

Kathryn A. Plant
Director

KAP:S

c: Clifton R. Lacy, M.D., Commissioner
William Conroy, Deputy Commissioner
Department of Health and Senior Services

David Heins, Director
Division of Family Development

Doris Jones, Acting Director
Division of Youth and Family Services