



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. 18

DATE: October 5, 1999

TO: County Welfare Agency Directors
ISS Area Supervisors

SUBJECT: Essential Person (EP) Project

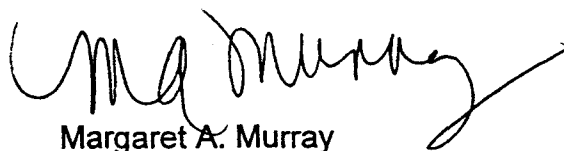
Essential Persons are those ineligible spouses of Supplemental Security Income (SSI) eligible recipients who are eligible for Medicaid with State only funding. In order to maximize federal financial participation (FFP), staff from the Medicaid District Offices (MDOs) recently converted those EPs who are eligible for New Jersey Care...Special Medicaid Programs from program status codes 130, 230 or 530 to program status codes 190, 290 or 590. Eligibility for the EP was determined using income information found on the SINQ screen. (Resource eligibility was not an issue since SSI uses stricter resource requirements than New Jersey Care...Special Medicaid Programs). So long as their spouses remain on SSI, the MDOs will remain responsible for these cases. These individuals can be distinguished from New Jersey Care...Special Medicaid Program beneficiaries that are the responsibility of the county boards of social services (CBOSS) through the county of responsibility code. Converted EPs will have a county of responsibility codes of 070 through 079.

Table with 2 columns: County of Responsibility Code and Medicaid District Office. Rows include codes 071 through 079 and 070 with corresponding office names like Atlantic, Cape May, Cumberland; Burlington, Mercer; Camden, Gloucester, Salem; Essex; Hudson; Middlesex, Hunterdon, Somerset, Union; Monmouth; Morris, Sussex, Warren; Ocean; Passaic, Bergen.

If the SSI eligible spouse dies, the converted EP's eligibility will terminate. They might then qualify for SSI on their own or they would then have to apply at the CBOSS for New Jersey Care...Special Medicaid Programs. These cases would then be handled by the county as any other New Jersey Care...Special Medicaid Programs case, including the issuance of a new Medicaid Identification Number.

Questions concerning this communication should be referred to the Medicaid District Office field service staff assigned to your county,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Margaret A. Murray", with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Margaret A. Murray
Director

MAM:G

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

David C. Heins, Director
Division of Family Development

Charles Venti, Director
Division of Youth and Family Services