



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

DIVISION OF MEDICAL ASSISTANCE AND HEALTH SERVICES

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

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

MEDICAID COMMUNICATION NO. 87-20

DATE: August 3, 1987

TO: COUNTY WELFARE AGENCY DIRECTORS

SUBJECT: Eligibility Determination for Institutionalized Couples

The Division of Public Welfare's Program Instruction 85-10-6 dated October 29, 1985, delineated policy as interpreted by the Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA) concerning the eligibility of a Medicaid Only applicant/recipient couple when both members are institutionalized in the same facility. Specifically, that Instruction directed that in the case of an institutionalized couple, for the first six months of institutionalization, the income of each individual is combined and compared to an eligibility standard equal to twice the Medicaid "Cap". The combined countable resources of the couple are applied to the resource standard for a couple.

After the first six months, in accordance with the HCFA interpretation, each member of the couple was to be considered as an individual for the purposes of determining continuing Medicaid Only eligibility.

The Employment Opportunities for Disabled Americans Act (P.L. 99-643) addressed, in part, the inequity created by the HCFA interpretation. Therefore, effective July 1, 1987, after the first six months of institutionalization, an applicant/recipient couple may continue to have their eligibility determined as a couple if determining eligibility as individuals would result in the denial or termination of Medicaid Only benefits to either member of the couple.

To the extent practical, county welfare agencies are requested to identify cases in which one member of an institutionalized couple became ineligible for Medicaid Only benefits because of the earlier HCFA interpretation and to review for the potential eligibility under this revised policy.

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Questions should be referred to Medicaid field service staff assigned to your county.

Sincerely,

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

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

TMR:Hg

cc: Odella T. Welch
Deputy Commissioner

Marion E. Reitz, Acting Director
Division of Public Welfare

Thomas Blatner, Director
Division of Youth and Family Services
Management Team