



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: 90-18

DATE: August 22, 1990

TO: County Welfare Agency Directors

SUBJECT: Qualified Disabled Working Individuals (QDWIs)

This is to advise of a recent Social Security Administration outreach to approximately 2,700 disabled working residents in New Jersey advising them of their potential eligibility for a new Medicaid benefit. A copy of the outreach notice is attached. So that your staff is able to respond to inquiries, general information regarding the new benefit is outlined below.

The Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1989 provides that disabled working individuals who lose premium-free Medicare Part A coverage solely due to employment may purchase that coverage as well as Medicare Part B. Such individuals, if their income is less than 200 percent of the federal poverty guideline and their resources are less than twice the SSI resource limit, may be eligible to have their Medicare Part A premium paid by Medicaid. Such individuals are known as qualified disabled working individuals (QDWIs). It should be noted that this special benefit does not include Medicare Part B premium buy-in.

This new benefit applies to any Social Security Disability beneficiary who ever lost Medicare coverage due to employment. To be eligible, the individual must continue to be disabled with the same impairment on which his/her Social Security disability benefits were based. Persons who are eligible for regular Medicaid benefits are not entitled to the new benefit.

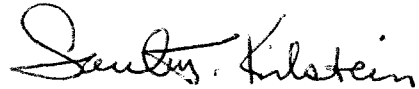
The enabling legislation provides for delayed implementation for any state which requires state legislation in order to offer the new benefit. The Office of the Attorney General has advised that we require such legislation. Because the State has a legislative impediment, the State must obtain the required legislation and implement the program no later than April 1, 1991.

When we are able to implement, we plan to have the eligibility process for QDWIs centralized within the Division's Bureau of Pharmaceutical Assistance to the Aged and Disabled (PAAD). In the meantime, any individuals seeking information regarding this

benefit should be referred to Ms. Patricia Howell in PAAD. Her telephone number is (609) 588-7071. Potential eligibles who contact her will be subsequently notified when the State is able to offer this new benefit.

Questions regarding this communication should be referred to the field staff assigned to your county.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Saul M. Kilstein". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Saul" and last name "Kilstein" clearly distinguishable.

Saul M. Kilstein
Director

SMK:Hh

cc: Marion E. Reitz, Director
Division of Economic Assistance

Nicholas Scalera, Acting Director
Division of Youth and Family Services

Social Security Administration Important Information

Name
Street Address
City/State/ZIP Code

Date:

AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE ABOUT MEDICARE

We are writing to you because our records show that you've lost or are losing your Medicare. You may be able to get Medicare again if:

- o you are still disabled, and
- o you lost or are losing Medicare only because you are working.

We are offering to start your Medicare again because of a change in the law. However, you'll have to pay monthly premiums if you want coverage.

What Kind of Medicare Can You Get?

You can get the same Medicare coverage you had before. This includes hospital insurance (Part A) and medical insurance (Part B).

How Much Will It Cost?

There was formerly no cost for your hospital insurance. If you choose to have hospital insurance under the new law, however, you will have to pay for it. The cost in 1990 is \$175 per month.

To get medical insurance also, you'll have to pay \$28.60 more, for a total of \$203.60 per month. This rate may increase next year. You can get hospital insurance without medical insurance, but if you want medical insurance you have to get hospital insurance also.

If you meet certain requirements about your income and the things that you own, your State may pay for your hospital insurance. Contact your State agency to find out if you qualify for this. Your local Social Security office can give you the name and address of the State agency.

See Next Page

11

When To Apply

- o If your Medicare stopped before December 1, 1989, you must apply no later than June 30, 1990, to start Medicare again this year. Your coverage will start on July 1, 1990.
- o If your Medicare stopped after November 30, 1989, but before you got this letter, you have 7 months from the month it stopped to apply again. However, you must apply no later than June 30 if you want Medicare to start on July 1, 1990. Your coverage will be delayed if you apply after June 30.
- o If your Medicare will end this month or in the next 3 months, you have 7 months from the date of this letter to apply again. However, if you want Medicare to continue without a break, you must apply before the end of the month when the coverage ends. If you sign up after that time, there may be a break in your Medicare.

If You Do Not Apply Now

If you don't apply for Medicare now, you can wait and apply during the next general enrollment period. A general enrollment period takes place in January, February and March of each year. If you apply during one of these periods, Medicare will begin the following July 1. However, in that case your premium may be higher because you applied later than you could have.

If you're covered by an employer group health plan, you may not need to apply now. You can get more information about this by contacting us.

How To Apply

If you want to apply for Medicare under the new law, please call or visit any Social Security office. If you contact us, please have this letter with you. It will help us serve you faster.

D. Dean Mesterharm
Acting Deputy Commissioner
of Operations