



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

DIVISION OF MEDICAL ASSISTANCE AND HEALTH SERVICES

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ALAN J. GIBBS  
Commissioner

SAUL M. KILSTEIN  
Director

**MEDICAID COMMUNICATION NO:** 91-14

**DATE:** June 18, 1991

**TO:** County Welfare Agency Directors

**SUBJECT:** Qualified Medicare Beneficiaries

Beginning yesterday, the national media has been reporting that many individuals who are eligible for benefits through Medicaid are not receiving them. Specifically, the reports concern Medicare Part A and B premium coverage available to Qualified Medicare Beneficiaries (QMBs). The eligibility criteria for this coverage is identical to that for the aged, blind, and disabled under New Jersey Care...Special Medicaid Programs. (Please refer to Medicaid Communication No: 89-18). Please note that individuals not currently enrolled in Medicare Part A should be referred to the Social Security district Office for enrollment.

The publicity about QMB coverage has generated a significant number of calls to this office, the Social Security Administration, as well as, the county welfare agencies. Because the terminology "Qualified Medicare Beneficiary" is largely unknown, a number of calls are being inappropriately referred.

To eliminate the confusion, I am requesting that staff at the county welfare agency who answer the telephone or who participate in pre-screening applicants be immediately advised that individuals inquiring about Qualified Medicare Beneficiary coverage should be referred to the New Jersey Care unit for information and that, in New Jersey, persons eligible for QMB coverage are entitled to full Medicaid coverage through the New Jersey Care program, as well as payment of the Medicare Part A and B premiums.

I thank you for your cooperation. Please refer any questions to the field staff assigned to your county.

Sincerely,

Saul M. Kilstein  
Director

SMK:RHH

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

Nicholas Scalera, Director  
Division of Youth and Family Services