



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: 89-17

DATE: June 1, 1989

TO: COUNTY WELFARE AGENCY DIRECTORS

SUBJECT: Application Processing; Out-of-County Cases

Ambiguity in the existing policy for assigning county responsibility for application processing has too often led to jurisdictional disputes which have resulted in delays in Medicaid eligibility determinations. These delays are extraordinarily frustrating to the applicant and his or her family. At times, access to the appropriate level of medical care is denied for unacceptable periods of time while case jurisdiction is decided. In order to better serve our client population, the Division is modifying this policy to more clearly delineate county responsibility. This change is effective upon receipt of this communication and applies to all aged, blind and disabled applicants for Medicaid Only and New Jersey Care...Special Medicaid Programs (including the medically needy).

Until an individual has permanently removed himself or herself from the original county, he or she will be considered to be a resident of the original county. Hospitalizations out-of-county, regardless of duration, shall not be considered permanent. If an individual is hospitalized out-of-county, he or she will be considered to be a resident of the original county until such time as actual placement in a long term care facility occurs. When an individual has been placed in a long term care facility, he or she will be considered to be a resident of the county in which the facility is located.

The county of residence is, in all cases, ultimately responsible for application processing and adherence to case processing standards. In the event that long term care placement occurs during the case processing period, the regulations at N.J.A.C. 10:71-3.6(d) apply and the original county is responsible to complete the application process.

It is understood that, the processing of applications for persons who are physically located in another county, in many instances, creates a practical logistical burden for the responsible county. Therefore, the county of responsibility may, and is encouraged to, obtain an agreement from the county in which the individual is physically located to take an application and complete the processing. In any event, the original county is responsible for assuring that the application is processed in a timely manner.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Thomas M. Russo". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "T" and "M".

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

TMR:PH1

cc: Marion E. Reitz, Director
Division of Public Welfare

William Waldman, Director
Division of Youth and Family Services