



*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**

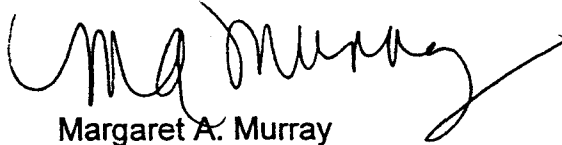
Essential Persons are those ineligible spouses of Supplemental Security Income (SSI) eligible recipients who are eligible for Medicaid with State only funding. In order to maximize federal financial participation (FFP), staff from the Medicaid District Offices (MDOs) recently converted those EPs who 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.

County of Responsibility Code	Medicaid District Office
071	Atlantic, Cape May, Cumberland
072	Burlington, Mercer
073	Camden, Gloucester, Salem
074	Essex
075	Hudson
076	Middlesex, Hunterdon, Somerset, Union
077	Monmouth
078	Morris, Sussex, Warren
079	Ocean
070	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 horizontal stroke 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