



**State of New Jersey**

**DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES**

**DIVISION OF MEDICAL ASSISTANCE AND HEALTH SERVICES**

**CN 712**

**TRENTON, NEW JERSEY 08625**

**MEDICAID COMMUNICATION NO.** 93-23

**DATE:** October 12, 1993

**TO:** County Welfare Agency Directors

**SUBJECT:** Supplemental Security Income (SSI) Presumptive Disability for Certain Premature Infants

As you may be aware, in May 1993, the Social Security Administration (SSA) issued a new policy which allows local Social Security Administration offices to make Supplemental Security Income (SSI) **presumptive** disability determinations on any premature newborn who weighs less than 1200 grams (approximately 2 pounds and 10 ounces) at birth, for period of up to six months, even if no other medical impairment(s) exists. Presumptive disability determinations are also available for premature infants weighing between 1200 and 2000 grams at birth and who meet other criteria.

A parent or guardian, on behalf of the premature newborn, must file an SSI application with the Social Security Administration in order for the newborn to be eligible for Medicaid benefits. The income and/or resources of the newborn's parent(s) or guardian are not considered in the determination of his/her SSI eligibility until the month after the child is discharged and begins living with his/her parents.

Although every infant who meets the low birth weight criteria is considered disabled under the SSI disability requirements, SSI cash payments will only be available if the parent or guardian of the newborn files an SSI application with the Social Security Administration on their behalf. Parents who inquire about Medicaid coverage for these newborns should be advised of the cash benefit and expedited processing. However, persons who do not wish to pursue SSI should still be processed for Medicaid under the applicable county-administered program. This includes New Jersey Care...Special Medicaid Programs and the one year guaranteed coverage of children born to Medicaid-eligible pregnant women.

The county welfare agencies should refer all appropriate calls concerning SSI presumptive disability for premature newborns to the Social Security Administration.

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Any questions concerning this communication should be directed to the Medicaid field staff assigned to your county.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alan G. Wheeler", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Alan G. Wheeler  
Acting Director

AGW:Tt

c: Marion E. Reitz, Director  
Division of Family Development

Nicholas Scalera., Director  
Division of Youth and Family Services