



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF MEDICAL ASSISTANCE AND HEALTH SERVICES
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MEDICAID COMMUNICATION NO. 03-21 DATE: November 19 2003

TO: County Welfare Agency Directors
Institutional Services Section Area Supervisors
Statewide Eligibility Vendor

SUBJECT: Adjustment to Spousal Impoverishment Resource Eligibility Figures

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has just advised this Agency of the new resource figures to be used in determining resource eligibility of an institutionalized individual when he or she has a spouse in the community. These new amounts are effective January 1, 2004.

The new minimum community spouse's share of resources is \$18,552 and the maximum is \$92,760, increasing from \$18,132 and \$90,660, respectively. These new figures are to be used, beginning with the month of January 2004, in the determination of the community spouse's share and resource eligibility for all institutional cases when there is a community spouse. The new amounts apply to any case which has not yet been determined eligible regardless of the date of application. The new figures apply even if the community spouse's share of the couple's combined total resources was previously determined in a resource assessment.

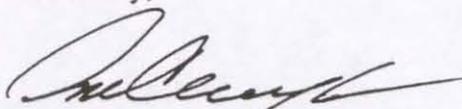
Example: Mr. Smith entered a long term care facility on October 15. He and his wife had combined resources of \$200,000. The community spouse's share of the resources would have been established at \$90,660 at the time of the resource assessment. Because the Smiths' resources still exceed \$92,660 (the community spouse's share plus the \$2,000 resource limit), Mr. Smith has not yet attained Medicaid eligibility. Beginning January 1, 2004, the community spouse's share in this case will increase to \$92,760. Resource eligibility will exist once the Smiths' countable resources are equal to or less than \$94,760.

PeopleFIRST
NJ Department of Human Services

You are advised that the maintenance allowances for the community spouse and other dependent relatives are based on the Federal poverty guidelines, and are therefore, not subject to modification at this time.

If you have any questions regarding this information, please refer them to the field services staff assigned to your county.

Sincerely,



Ann Clemency Kohler
Director

ACK:Gg

c Clifton R. Lacy, Commissioner
Susan Reinhard, Senior Policy Advisor
Department of Health and Senior Services

Jeanette Page-Hawkins, Director
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