



State of New Jersey
Department of Human Services
Division of Medical Assistance & Health Services

MEDICAID ALERT

MA-2000-01

January 2000

TO: All Providers

SUBJECT: Recognizing the Difference between Medicaid Eligibility Cards and Families First Eligibility Identification Cards

EFFECTIVE: Immediately

PURPOSE: To remind all providers of unique eligibility cards for the Medicaid and Families First benefit programs

BACKGROUND: The New Jersey Division of Medical Assistance and Health Services (DMAHS) issues a Medicaid Eligibility Identification Card to identify those Medicaid beneficiaries who are eligible for covered health care services.

The New Jersey Division of Family Development (DFD) issues a Families First Eligibility Identification Card as a method of distributing food stamps and cash payments to beneficiaries. The Families First Eligibility Identification Card eliminates the need for local welfare agencies to issue cash benefit checks and Food Stamp authorization documents to eligible beneficiaries.

The Families First Eligibility Identification Card is a magnetic-strip card (similar to a credit card) used by eligible beneficiaries to access by electronic transfer benefits deposited by the State in an individually assigned commercial bank account.

ACTION: The Medicaid Eligibility Identification Card and the Families First Eligibility Identification Card are not interchangeable.

The Medicaid Eligibility Identification Card only validates a Medicaid beneficiary's eligibility for Medicaid-covered health care services. Three (3) types of Medicaid Eligibility Identification Cards are currently in use. These include:

- Department of Human Services – "Medicaid-ID" (Form No. FD-152);
- "Medicaid Eligibility Identification Card" (Form No. FD-73/178); and
- "Validation of Eligibility" (Form No. FD-34).

The Families First Eligibility Identification Card validates the eligibility of a beneficiary's household for cash benefits, Food Stamp Program benefits, and Deficit Reduction Act Child Support Bonus Payments. This card consists of hard plastic with a magnetic strip affixed to the back of the card. A copy of this card is attached to this Alert for your review.

The Families First Eligibility Identification Card is not used to validate a beneficiary's eligibility for Medicaid-covered health care services.

If you have any questions concerning this Medicaid Alert, please do not hesitate to contact Douglas Eide, Technical Services, DMAHS, at (609) 588-2897.

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