

**TO:** Commissioners of Social Services, Medicaid Directors

**FROM:** Ann Clemency Kohler, Deputy Commissioner  
Office of Medicaid Management

**SUBJECT:** The Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity  
Reconciliation Act (PRWORA): Effective Dates of SSI  
Payment and Medicaid Eligibility

**EFFECTIVE DATE:**

**CONTACT PERSON:** Ken Jerge, 518-473-9851

The PRWORA, enacted 8/22/96, affects the effective date of SSI payments. This law requires that SSI cash benefits may only begin as of the first day of the month following: (1) the date the application is filed; or if later, (2) the date the person first meets all eligibility criteria. The month prior to the effective date of SSI cash benefits is the "gap" month.

Currently, the Medicaid effective "From" date (Field 277) for new SSI recipients on the Automated SDX/WMS Interface (ASWI) Report is the date SSI cash benefits begin. This date is also the MA effective "From" date which is generated by the ASWI on Screen 5 on WMS. In New York City, the Auto-SDX system stores the Medicaid effective dates on the SDX Inquiry Screen (NQSDXI) on WMS.

In New York State, Medicaid must be provided to the individual in the gap month. Consequently, if the SSI recipient has medical bills in the gap month, the district must authorize Medicaid for that month. In addition, if the SSI recipient has medical bills in the 3 month retroactive period (3 months prior to the gap month), Medicaid eligibility must be determined for that period.

Effective 1/10/98 via the ASWI (Upstate) and Auto SDX (NYC), the MA effective "From" date will equal the month SSI eligibility begins (the gap month). The ASWI Report MA Effective Date (Field 277) and WMS Screen 5 MA "From" Date field will reflect this change also. In New York City, the MA effective date on the SDX inquiry screen will reflect this change. This date will appear as the coverage from date on the MA Individual History Screen (NQIN08). Consequently, districts will only have to determine Medicaid eligibility for medical bills in the 3 month retroactive period.

Effective with the Bi-weekly SDX Reports and Files produced for Transaction File #598 (TF598 approx. release 1/23/98), the MA Effective Date (Field 277) will reflect the same change as noted above.

Attachment I to SDX Information Sheet, #640, dated December 24, 1997, also advised districts of this information.