16.9 MEDICALLY NEEDY, MANDATORY - FOR AGED, BLIND OR DISABLED (MS, NS)

Income: **MNIL** **Assets:** **$2,000**
Possible Spenddown

NOTE: Medically Needy coverage groups are subject to a spenddown provision.

The only mandatory Medically Needy coverage group for the aged, blind or disabled is SSI-RELATED MEDICAID.

NOTE: All disabled recipients of SSI-Related Medicaid are mandatory referrals to the Department of Rehabilitative Services (DRS). The penalty for failure to cooperate is removal from the benefit group or case closure, if the client is the only person in the benefit group. The client does not fail to cooperate if he refuses surgery.

Individuals who meet the SSI definition of aged, blind or disabled are eligible for Medicaid when all of the following conditions are met:

- Countable income is under the MNIL.

  The income eligibility requirement is detailed in Chapter 10. However, no SSI-Related case is denied due only to excess income. Instead, incurred medical bills are deducted from countable income for the 6-month Period of Consideration. This process is called spenddown and details of this procedure are in Chapter 10.

  Eligibility and the amount of the spenddown, if any, are determined using the MNIL, not the SSI or cash assistance payment level. The level of the MNIL is determined by each state according to federal guidelines. By law, the MNIL cannot exceed 133% of the State's cash assistance payment level, rounded to the nearest $100, for a family of the same size.

  NOTE: Under some circumstances the MNIL for two people is used when determining eligibility for only one person. This is also explained in Chapter 10.

- Countable assets do not exceed the limits described in Chapter 11.

  NOTE: An aged, blind or disabled person may also be eligible as a member of an AFDC/U-Related family. The Worker must take the action that will most benefit the client.