

**Bulletin Number:** MSA 16-04

**Distribution:** Bridges Eligibility Manual (BEM) Holders

**Issued:** March 1, 2016

**Subject:** Removal of the Cobra Widow(er)s Category from the BEM

**Effective:** April 1, 2016

**Programs Affected:** Supplemental Security Income (SSI) Related Medicaid

The Cobra Widow(er)s category was created as a result of United States Public Law 98-21. Before 1984, persons age 50 through 59 receiving disabled widow(er)'s Retirement, Survivors, and Disability Insurance (RSDI) under sections 202(e) or (f) of the Social Security Act received less money than widow(er)s who began receiving at age 60 or older. Section 134 of United States Public Law 98-21 eliminated that difference in RSDI benefits. Due to this increase, the individual became ineligible for an Supplemental Security Income (SSI) payment and would not continue to qualify for Medicaid coverage without the creation of this special category. No new individuals could be enrolled in this category as of June 30, 1988.

There are no longer any eligible individuals in this category, and the information regarding the Cobra Widow(er)s category is being removed from the BEM as it is obsolete.

### Manual Maintenance

Retain this bulletin until the information is incorporated into the Bridges Eligibility Manual.

### Questions

Any questions regarding this bulletin should be directed to Provider Inquiry, Department of Health and Human Services, P.O. Box 30731, Lansing, Michigan 48909-8231, or e-mail at [ProviderSupport@michigan.gov](mailto:ProviderSupport@michigan.gov). When you submit an e-mail be sure to include your name, affiliation, and phone number so you may be contacted if necessary. Providers may phone toll-free 1-800-292-2550.

### Approved



Chris Priest, Director  
Medical Services Administration