



TOBY DOUGLAS  
Director

State of California—Health and Human Services Agency  
Department of Health Care Services



EDMUND G. BROWN JR.  
Governor

**DATE:** FEB 10 2011

MMCD All Plan Letter 11-005

**TO:** ALL MEDI-CAL MANAGED CARE HEALTH PLANS

**SUBJECT:** AID CODES 4H and 4L: IDENTIFYING FOSTER CARE CHILDREN IN THE CALIFORNIA WORK OPPORTUNITY AND RESPONSIBILITY TO KIDS (CalWORKS) OR 1931(b) PROGRAMS

This All-Plan Letter serves to provide information to Medi-Cal Managed Care Health Plans (Plans) regarding two new derivative aid codes, 4H (CalWORKS) and 4L (1931(b)), that are derived from existing aid codes 30 (CalWORKS) and 3N (1931(b)), respectively, and currently included in the Medi-Cal managed care contracts. These derivative aid codes became effective December 1, 2010 for the Medi-Cal managed care program. This letter is for informational purposes only regarding upcoming aid code and system changes; no action is required at this time by the Plans.

## **BACKGROUND**

Generally, foster care children who are under court ordered dependency are placed in homes that have been approved by the state to accept and care for foster youth. When a foster care child is not placed with an approved foster care family, but is placed instead with relatives, the relative may choose to receive payment under the CalWORKS or 1931(b) program instead of seeking payment as a qualifying foster care home. When this happens, the foster care child is placed in a CalWORKS or 1931(b) aid code rather than in a foster care aid code. Advocates raised the issue that even though these foster care children are being placed in homes that qualify for CalWORKS or 1931(b) payments, these children are still considered to be in "foster care."

## **ISSUE/PROBLEM**

Current statute exempts foster care children from mandatory enrollment in Medi-Cal managed care health plans in Two-Plan Model and Geographic Managed Care (GMC) counties. However, in cases where foster care children are being placed in homes qualifying for CalWORKS or 1931(b) programs, these youth are being placed in CalWORKS or 1931(b) aid codes which are mandatory aid codes for all Plans. Mandatory enrollment of this population does not comply with State statute and may further cause access to care issues for this vulnerable population.

## **SOLUTION**

The Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) has established two new derivative aid codes to identify foster care children who are placed in either the CalWORKS or 1931(b) programs so they can be easily recognized as foster care children and so these children can opt out of mandatory managed care enrollment in Two-Plan Model and GMC counties. Effective December 1, 2010, Medi-Cal managed care will consider aid code 4H to be a derivative from aid code 30 (CalWORKs) and aid code 4L to be a derivative from 3N (1931(b)).

DHCS will be providing Plans with contract amendments that include these two new derivative aid codes. If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact your Contract Manager.

Sincerely,

**Original Signed by Tanya Homman**

Tanya Homman, Chief  
Medi-Cal Managed Care Division