December 19, 2012

CHDP Program Letter: 12-08

TO: ALL COUNTY CHILD HEALTH AND DISABILITY PREVENTION (CHDP) PROGRAM DIRECTORS, DEPUTY DIRECTORS, MEDICAL CONSULTANTS, STATE CHILDREN’S MEDICAL SERVICES (CMS) STAFF AND REGIONAL OFFICE STAFF

SUBJECT: CHDP PROVIDER INFORMATION NOTICE NO.: 12-08 REGARDING RECOMMENDATIONS FOR USE OF THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION (WHO) GROWTH STANDARDS FOR ASSESSMENT OF GROWTH FOR INFANTS FROM BIRTH TO 24 MONTHS AND UPDATES IN THE CALIFORNIA WOMEN, INFANTS AND CHILDREN (WIC) SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION PROGRAM

Enclosed is Provider Information Notice No.: 12-08 regarding the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) recommendations and resources for use of the WHO growth charts for infants from birth to 24 months as well as changes in the California WIC Program to transition to the new growth charts.

In conformance with United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) requirements, local WIC programs began implementation of the WHO growth standards in growth chart data information systems and nutrition education services on October 1, 2012. CHDP providers are requested to initiate use of the WHO growth charts at this time. By October 30, 2013, all CHDP providers must integrate use of the WHO growth charts for CHDP exams.

You may anticipate questions from CHDP providers regarding the adoption of the WHO growth charts. By the end of 2012, a training module introducing the WHO growth standards to CHDP providers will be distributed to local CHDP program Directors/Deputy Directors and posted on the CHDP website. The training module, developed by the CHDP Nutrition Subcommittee, includes a slide presentation, user guide, fact sheet, clinical growth charts, and practice growth charts. The training is intended to be presented by CHDP program staff and may include but is not limited to a CHDP physician, Public Health Nurse, Public Health Nutritionist or Health Educator. The module package will provide local CHDP programs with materials to support implementation of the WHO Growth Charts by CHDP providers. Watch for a notice announcing the availability of these materials.
Please distribute this Provider Information Notice and attachments without any revisions to providers in your county, complete and retain the “Report of Distribution” (DHCS 4504). The DHCS 4504 is located at: http://www.dhcs.ca.gov/formsandpubs/forms/Forms/ChildMedSvcForms/dhcs4504.pdf.

If you have any questions, please contact your Regional Consultant staff.

Sincerely,

Robert J. Dimand, MD
Chief Medical Officer
Children’s Medical Services