STATE OF CALIFORNIA—HEALTH AND WELFARE AGENCY

PETE WILSON, *Governor*

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES
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June 22, 1994

TO: All County Welfare Directors
All County Administrative Officers
All County Medi-Cal Program Specialists/Liaisons

Letter No.: 94-52

PREGNANCY VERIFICATION

Ref.: This All County Welfare Directors Letter (ACWDL) supersedes ACWDL No. 94-39

The purpose of this letter is to clarify California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Section 50167 (a)(8) and the Department of Health Services' policy regarding pregnancy verification. Medi-Cal Eligibility Branch staff has met several times with Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) staff to develop pregnancy verification requirements that, as much as possible, are consistent with both programs. AFDC is in the process of changing their regulations to include certified nurse midwives and nurse practitioners as authorized medical personnel who can provide pregnancy verification. This will create comparable pregnancy verification policies for both Departments. Acceptable pregnancy verification is:

> "A written statement from a physician, physician's assistant, certified nurse midwife, nurse practitioner, or by designated medical or clinic personnel with access to the patient's medical record that provides information sufficient to substantiate the diagnosis and the estimated date of confinement (EDC). If the pregnancy verification does not include the EDC, eligibility workers may ask the applicant the expected date of birth."

Pregnancy verification is not required for women applying for minor consent services under Section 50147.1. Obtaining an EDC is necessary for other Medi-Cal programs. With the implementation of the Benefits Identification Card, the MC 177 will be eliminated. In order for counties to know when a share of cost (SOC) pregnant woman can transfer into Continuing Eligibility, it must be known she has met her SOC at least once. The EDC can be an alert to counties to check the status of the SOC. An EDC can also facilitate counties' ability to establish Deemed Eligibility for newborns by serving as a flag to remind counties to contact the mother by the end of the following month if she has not reported the birth by the end of the expected birth month.

A signature stamp, a photo copy or a carbon copy are acceptable as long as they are initialed or counter signed by the designated medical or clinic personnel providing the verification. However, the carbon copy signature that appears on the Pregnancy Verification portion of the Presumptive Eligibility "Application for Medi-Cal Program Only" (PREMED2) does not need to be initialed.

Counties may implement this policy immediately. However, it must be implemented no later than July 1, 1994.

We hope that this ACWDL provides needed clarification regarding pregnancy verification. If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Ana Ramirez at (916) 657-1401.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY
GLENDA ARELLANO for

Frank S. Martucci, Chief
Medi-Cal Eligibility Branch