STATE OF CALIFORNIA–HEALTH AND WELFARE AGENCY

PETE WILSON, Governor

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES

714/744 P Street
P.O. Box 942732
Sacramento, CA 94234-7320
(916) 657-2941

January 13, 1997

TO: All County Welfare Directors
All County Medi-Cal Program Specialists/Liaisons
All County Chief Probation Officers
All Public/Private Adoption Agencies
All Department of Social Services District Adoptions Offices

Letter No.: 97-02

PARTICIPATION OF FOSTER CARE AND ADOPTION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM CHILDREN IN MEDI-CAL MANAGED CARE

SUMMARY

The purpose of this letter is to notify you of the Department of Health Services' (DHS) policy regarding Medi-Cal managed care enrollment of children who are under the supervision of county foster care or adoption agencies or any other agency identified in Eligibility and Assistance Standards Manual, Section 45-202.6 or 45-203.5, in the 14 California counties in which the Medi-Cal program is establishing a Medi-Cal "Two-Plan Model" managed care program or another Medi-Cal managed care program. Under these managed care programs, most family linked Medi-Cal beneficiaries are required to enroll in a managed care plan to receive their Medi-Cal benefits.

The policies contained in this letter impact children and youth in out-of-home care under the care and custody of county welfare and probation departments, and licensed private adoption agencies as well as children and youth with Adoption Assistance Program (AAP) benefits. This letter does not apply to children in out-of-home care under other circumstances.

The recently enacted budget bill, Senate Bill 1393 (Chapter 162, Statutes of 1996), contains language that allows the voluntary enrollment of children in foster care into managed care plans in the Two-Plan Model and geographic managed care (GMC) counties. The DHS has extended this policy to children in the AAP. Although the provisions of the budget bill will expire on June 30, 1997, it is the intent of the DHS that voluntary enrollment of foster children continue after June 30, 1997, until such time that the DHS has sufficient information that foster children placed out of county can easily receive needed medical care.

The DHS would like to receive input from county foster care and adoptions agency directors regarding reciprocity policies and processes might best be established to serve the needs of Medi-Cal eligible foster care and AAP children through Medi-Cal managed care plans. Please provide written suggestions to:

Joseph A. Kelly, Chief
Medi-Cal Managed Care Division
California Department of Health Services
714 P Street, Room 650
Sacramento, CA 95814

QUESTIONS

If you have questions about this letter, please contact Mr. Alan Stolmack, Chief of the Policy Support and Development Section, Medi-Cal Managed Care Division, Department of Health Services, at (916) 653-5277.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY

FRANK S. MARTUCCI, CHIEF
Medi-Cal Eligibility Branch