STATE OF CALIFORNIA–HEALTH AND WELFARE AGENCY

PETE WILSON, Governor

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES
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January 2, 1998

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

Letter No.: 98-01

NO LONGER DISABLED CHILDREN (NLDC): TRACKING AND NEW AID CODE 6R

Ref.: All County Welfare Directors Letter (ACWDLs) Nos. 97-40 and No. 97-49

This is an update to the above referenced ACWDLs which describe the new federal requirements to provide zero share-of-cost (SOC) Medi-Cal to children under the age of 18 who are discontinued from Supplemental Security Income (SSI) due to the determination that they are no longer disabled under the new, stricter welfare reform definition of disability. We also explained about the interim process under which such children coming off SSI (who will be referred to as Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (PRWORA NLDC) receive a notice of action (NOA) type 26 and are being placed into Aid Code 64 (disabled-medically needy-no SOC) while a permanent process is developed.

County Action During the Interim Process: We believe that some PRWORA NLDC have had (or will have) their eligibility determined as part of their family's Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) case and therefore were moved (or will be moved) from Aid Code 64 into an AFDC cash aid code such as 30 or 35. Counties must ensure that these children continue to be evaluated under the PRWORA NLDC process in the event their AFDC (and/or Edwards) eligibility ends. Therefore, for each child coming off of AFDC or Edwards, the counties must check the Medi-Cal Eligibility Data Systems screen INQP to determine whether the child is under age 18 and also received an NOA type 26. If the child meets these two requirements, the county must call Marie Taketa of my staff to request the case be tracked under State Control so he/she can continue to receive zero SOC Medi-Cal under Aid Code 64 as grandfathered case.

New Aid Code 6R: We originally informed counties that PRWORA NLDC would be placed into Aid Code 6P at the time of their SSI termination once a permanent system is developed. However, these children have the right to appeal their SSI termination and a different aid code is being developed to cover the time period when such appeals may be filed or while the appeals are pending. Therefore, once the permanent system is in place, these children will be placed into Aid Code 6R immediately when SSI is discontinued. Aid Code 6R is a zero SOC, full-scope aid code. We will be creating a new permanent PRWORA NLDC identifier. This identifier will follow the child until age 18, regardless of the aid code he/she is placed in during childhood.

The process is still under development. However, we expect the process to be along the following lines:

- Children will be in this aid code for at least three months. At the end of the three months, each child for whom no appeal was filed will be sent a notice and redetermination forms which are to be returned to the county. If an appeal is filed, the Notice and redetermination forms will be sent at the end of the SSI appeals process unless the child returns to SSI. Counties will redetermine the child's eligibility for SSI using nondisability SSI criteria (or possibly any other zero SOC Medi-Cal program), and place the child in an appropriate aid code such as 6P.

As we mentioned in our previous letters, we will transmit procedures to the counties upon their completion. If you have any questions, please contact Marie Taketa at (916) 657-1250 for questions relating to Aid Code 6R and Mary Maestas-Sandoval at (916) 657-1248 for questions relating to Aid Code 6P and PRWORA NLDC.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY

Frank S. Martucci, Chief
Medi-Cal Eligibility Branch