STATE OF CALIFORNIA–HEALTH AND WELFARE AGENCY

PETE WILSON, Governor

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES
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January 9, 1998

TO: All County Welfare Directors
All County Administrative Officers
All County Medi-Cal Program Specialists/Liaisons
All County Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Program Specialists/Liaisons

Letter No.: 98-04

QUALIFIED AND NOT QUALIFIED ALIENS: IDENTIFICATION AND TRACKING REQUIREMENTS OF ALIENS RECEIVING MEDI-CAL BENEFITS WITH CASH ASSISTANCE

Ref.: All County Welfare Directors Letter 97-42, Errata 97-51

The purpose of this All County Welfare Directors Letter (ACWDL) is to inform counties of mandatory identification and tracking requirements of aliens receiving Medi-Cal benefits in conjunction with Temporary Assistance for Needy Families or Foster Care cash assistance. Counties are to follow the instructions outlined in ACWDL 97-42 and begin identifying and tracking aliens on the Medi-Cal Eligibility Data System (MEDS).

ACWDL 97-42 informed counties of data systems changes to the "refugee/alien indicator" codes and the establishment of the "alien eligibility code" field on MEDS. Additionally, this ACWDL identified Qualified aliens, as defined by the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 as amended by the Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996, and as amended by the Balanced Budget Act; identified Not Qualified aliens, and implemented mandatory identification and tracking requirements. Effective December 1, 1997, aliens are to be coded on MEDS, with the appropriate tracking code, at application and annual redetermination. Counties that have not yet modified their data systems so that these codes can be sent to MEDS through the batch process can input the codes directly on-line to MEDS. It is the expectation of the Department of Health Services that all aliens receiving Medi-Cal benefits will be identified on MEDS no later than November 30, 1998.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact the appropriate analyst listed below:

Qualified aliens, including active duty/veterans et. al., battered aliens, and Not Qualified aliens	Linda Rahmeyer	(916) 657-0398

Refugee aliens	Elena Lara	(916) 657-0712

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY

Frank S. Martucci, Chief
Medi-Cal Eligibility Branch