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

August 11, 1998

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

Letter No: 98-30

HEALTHY FAMILIES ENROLLMENT INFORMATION ON THE MEDI-CAL ELIGIBILITY DATA SYSTEM AND HEALTH INSURANCE SYSTEM DATABASES

This is to inform you that Healthy Families enrollment information will be available on the Medi-Cal Eligibility Data System (MEDS) and Health Insurance System (HIS) databases in the upcoming months.

Healthy Families Background

As you may know, legislation was passed in 1997 creating the Healthy Families Program, a comprehensive, subsidized, private health insurance program for uninsured children in families with gross income up to 200 percent of the federal poverty level. Healthy Families will use federal funds (65 percent) and state funds (35 percent) to cover up to 580,000 uninsured children of modest income working Californians who are ineligible for no cost Medi-Cal. The program is designed to be closely coordinated with a number of existing programs serving modest income children, to ensure a seamless delivery system and continuity of care for children. Healthy Families will be administered by California's Managed Risk Medical Insurance Board.

Impact on MEDS

Installation of the Healthy Families enrollment information on the MEDS and HIS databases will occur in two phases. In Phase I, scheduled for August 1, 1998, the Other Health Coverage (OHC) code "9" will begin appearing on MEDS and will be used to denote Healthy Families coverage. In Phase II, scheduled for December 1, 1998, specific Healthy Families policy information will be available on the HIS database. Users accessing the HIS database will be able to identify a Healthy Families HIS insurance segment by noting the letters, "HF" before the name of the insurance carrier(s) with which the subscriber has enrolled. Because there are separate carriers for medical, dental, and vision coverage, Healthy Families enrollees will have multiple HIS segments.

County Role

County staff need take no action. Healthy Families enrollment/disenrollment data will be supplied to MEDS and HIS via the Healthy Families enrollment vendor, Electronic Data Systems, on a daily basis. **As enrollment/disenrollment of subscribers is the responsibility of the Healthy Families vendor, neither the Department of Health Services nor county staff will have the ability to change any of the Healthy Families OHC information on the MEDS and/or HIS databases.** If a change is needed, subscribers should be directed to call the Healthy Families' customer service number at 1-800-880-5305.

If you have any questions on this letter, please contact Ms. Lisa Bandaccari of the Health Insurance Section at (916) 323-5618.

Sincerely,

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ANGELINE MRVA, Chief
Medi-Cal Eligibility Branch