STATE OF CALIFORNIA—HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY

GRAY DAVIS, *Governor*

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May 30, 2000

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

Letter No.: 00-35

ASSIGNMENT AND USE OF AID CODES BEGINNING WITH THE NUMBER NINE

This letter is being sent to clarify policy and as a response to county concerns regarding the assignment and use of the nine-alpha aid codes.

BACKGROUND

When the Medi-Cal Eligibility Data System (MEDS) was first implemented in 1981, all aid codes were numeric. The State assigned aid codes in the range 01 through 89 to identify different categories of eligibility for Medi-Cal, Food Stamps, federal and state cash assistance programs and the County Medical Services Program. Aid Codes 90 through 99 were reserved by the State for exclusive county use. Each county could assign any of these aid codes as needed to identify county assistance programs.

As the number of Medi-Cal eligibility categories grew, MEDS was revised to allow the use of aid codes with an alpha character in the second digit. When counties were advised to modify their systems to reflect these changes, no specific instructions were issued regarding the assignment of nine-alpha aid codes as there had been for the nine-numeric aid codes.

Last fall, following discussions on the addition of state-administered health program clients to MEDS at a County MEDS Advisory Group meeting, several MEDS Coordinators expressed concern over the assignment of nine-alpha aid codes for these programs. In response to those concerns, the Medi-Cal Eligibility Branch conducted a survey of counties on the assignment of nine-alpha aid codes. As a result of the survey, we have determined that it is necessary to establish a policy on the assignment of nine-alpha aid codes.

NINE-ALPHA AID CODES ASSIGNED BY THE STATE

Thirteen aid codes have previously been assigned at the state level. They are used either for claims processing for state-administered non-Medi-Cal health care programs or for reporting to MEDS, the Statewide Automated Welfare System (SAWS) or the Income and Eligibility Verification System (IEVS).

Aid Codes Assigned to State Administered Health Programs

Aid codes assigned for use in eligibility tracking and/or provider billing and claims processing for state-administered non-Medi-Cal health care programs include the following:

9A BREAST CANCER EARLY DETECTION PROGRAM (BCEDP). BCEDP offers benefits to uninsured and underinsured women, 40 years and older, whose household income is at or below 200 percent of the federal poverty level (FPL). BCEDP offers reimbursement for screening, diagnostic, and case management.

9C EXPANDED ACCESS TO PRIMARY CARE PROGRAM. This program provides for the expansion of primary care services in medical, dental, and preventive health care services with emphasis on smoking prevention/cessation programs.

9H HEALTHY FAMILIES PROGRAM. This health insurance program covers uninsured children up to 19 years of age whose family income is at or below 250 percent of the FPL. This program covers medical, dental, and vision services to enrolled children.

9J GENETICALLY HANDICAPPED PERSONS PROGRAM (GHPP). Individuals in this program are eligible for GHPP benefits and case management.

9K CALIFORNIA CHILDREN'S SERVICES (CCS) – FULL BENEFITS. A child in this program is eligible for all CCS benefits (i.e., diagnosis, treatment, therapy, and case management).

9M CCS - MEDICAL THERAPY PROGRAM. A child in this program is eligible only for CCS medical therapy services.

9N CCS - MEDI-CAL ELIGIBLE. A child in this program is eligible only for CCS case management services. Other services are covered by Medi-Cal.

9R CCS - HEALTHY FAMILIES ELIGIBLE. The child must be enrolled in the Healthy Families program and the family's adjusted gross income must be in excess of $40,000. A child in this program is eligible for all CCS benefits (i.e., diagnosis, treatment, therapy, and case management).

Most of these programs use the State's Medi-Cal Fiscal Intermediary, Electronic Data Systems, for claims processing where the aid code is used to identify the appropriate funding source for paying the claims. Most of these programs report their clients to MEDS to facilitate the coordination of benefits. Aid codes 9H, 9J, 9K, 9M, 9N, and 9R may appear on the MEDS database and on the County Identification (ID) Cross Reference File. The County ID case number used for these programs consists of a nine followed by the Client Index Number.

Aid Codes Assigned for County Reporting to State-Level Reporting Systems

The remaining state-assigned nine-alpha aid codes have been assigned for county use in reporting to MEDS, IEVS and/or SAWS. These aid codes are as follows:

9E IEVS MATCH – EMPLOYMENT DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT. This aid code identifies an IEVS request for information only from the Employment Development Department.

9F IEVS MATCH – FRANCHISE TAX BOARD. This aid code identifies an IEVS request for information only from the Franchise Tax Board.

9G GENERAL RELIEF/GENERAL ASSISTANCE. This aid code is used for reporting county cash assistance clients to MEDS, IEVS, and/or SAWS. Aid Code 9G is reported to MEDS to facilitate the coordination of benefits

and to initiate Interim Assistance Reimbursement requests for clients who have applied for Supplemental Security Income/State Supplementary Payment.

9S IEVS MATCH - SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION. This aid code identifies an IEVS request for information only from the Social Security Administration.

9X COUNTY-FUNDED FOSTER CARE FUNDS. When a child has been determined ineligible for foster care payments based on state and federal rules, some counties will pay benefits with county-only funds. This aid code is used for reporting these clients to SAWS.

ASSIGNMENT OF AID CODES BEGINNING WITH THE NUMBER NINE

The nine-numeric aid codes, aid codes 90 through 99, will continue to be reserved exclusively for county use. The following nine-alpha aid codes have also been reserved exclusively for county use: 9B, 9D, 9I, 9L, 9O, 9P, 9Q, 9V, 9W, and 9Y. These aid codes will not be assigned for any programs at the state level.

Aid Codes 9T and 9U will be reserved for future use for state-level programs. Beyond that, additional state-level programs will be assigned aid codes in a numeric-alpha range other than nine-alpha.

If you have any questions about the use or assignment of aid codes, please contact Ms. Erin Lynch of my staff at (916) 654-5769.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY

Angeline Mrva, Chief
Medi-Cal Eligibility Branch