State of California—Health and Human Services Agency

Department of Health Services

California Department of Health Services

SANDRA SHEWRY
Director

ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER
Governor

April 4, 2005

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS
ALL COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS
ALL COUNTY MEDI-CAL PROGRAM SPECIALIST/LIASONS
ALL COUNTY HEALTH EXECUTIVES
ALL COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH DIRECTORS
ALL COUNTY MEDS LIASONS

Letter No.: 05-14

SUBJECT: UNNECESSARY LIMITED DISABILITY PACKETS BEING REFERRED TO STATE PROGRAMS - DISABILITY AND ADULT PROGRAMS DIVISION
(Reference: Medi-Cal Eligibility Procedures Manual, Article 22C-6, Section 1A.5. Assembling and sending State Programs - Disability and Adult Programs Division Packets, Limited Referral)

In a continuing effort to reduce the backlog of disability cases currently pending in State Programs - Disability and Adult Programs Division (SP-DAPD), counties are now required to make a diligent attempt to obtain the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) case status from the Social Security Administration (SSA) before referring the packet to SP-DAPD. This new procedure will be effective upon receipt of this All County Welfare Directors Letter.

Counties may use any of the following ways to communicate with SSA:

- Establish a liaison contact list with Social Security district offices,
- Direct telephone contact with SSA, or
- Counties may use SSA Form 1610 to request the status of an SSI application.

Also, the final SSI decision, and, if applicable, the hearing status, is posted on the Medi-Cal Eligibility Data System.

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If for some reason counties are unable to acquire the SSI status on a case, they may then complete the Limited Packet and refer the case to SP- DAPD with an annotation on the MC 221 (Disability Determination and Transmittal Form) in Section 10 (County Worker Comments) listing the steps taken by the county to obtain an SSI case status and the reason the information was not provided by SSA, if that reason is known. Counties must not call SP-DAPD requesting the information in lieu of sending the Limited Packet.

SP-DAPD has been instructed to return Limited Packets as Z56 (No Determination Situations) if the packet is not annotated as required. Also, if SP-DAPD receives a Limited Packet referral and SSA has not made a disability determination, SP-DAPD will note this information on the MC 221 and return the packet as a Z56.

The Medi-Cal Eligibility Procedures Manual will be updated in the near future to reflect the changes indicated. If you have questions regarding this issue, please contact Mr. Terry Durham at (916) 552-9483.

Original signed by

Tameron Mitchell, R.D., M.P.H., Chief
Medi-Cal Eligibility Branch