State of California—Health and Human Services Agency
Department of Health Services

California
Department of
Health Services

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Director

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August 17, 2005

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS Letter No.: 05-26
ALL COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS
ALL COUNTY MEDI-CAL PROGRAM SPECIALISTS/LIAISONS
ALL COUNTY HEALTH EXECUTIVES
ALL COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH DIRECTORS

SUBJECT: REVISED DATES RELATING TO SYSTEMS CHANGES AND REPORTS FOR MEDI-CAL PERSONAL CARE SERVICES/IN-HOME SUPPORTIVE SERVICES INDEPENDENCE PLUS 1115 DEMONSTRATION PROJECT AND THE IN-HOME SUPPORTIVE SERVICES RESIDUAL PROGRAM
(Reference: All County Welfare Directors Letter Number 05-21)

The purpose of this All County Welfare Directors Letter (ACWDL) is to revise the dates provided in ACWDL 05-21 for systems changes and reports and change the Share of Cost (SOC) Notice of Action (NOA) language contained in ACWDL 05-21.

BACKGROUND

ACWDL 05-21 introduced the In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) Plus Waiver that was implemented August 1, 2004. Counties were directed to complete Medi-Cal eligibility determinations on all in-home services cases using Medi-Cal aid codes, Medi-Cal rules, and Medi-Cal SOC by October 1, 2005. ACDWL 05-21 also provided effective dates for new tracking aid codes, changes to the Change Management and Information Payrolling System (CMIPS) and the Medi-Cal Eligibility Data System (MEDS) and the dates for issuing certain reports.

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REVISED DATES

- August 2005 - The Department of Health Services (DHS) will send the counties the first monthly list that identifies individuals receiving in-home care that have not had a Medi-Cal determination by a Medi-Cal Eligibility Worker. Counties are to use this list as an aid in identifying cases that still need the Medi-Cal determination.

- End of September 2005 - DHS will send counties a list of in-home services recipients with a Medi-Cal eligibility determination and a Medi-Cal SOC that should be provided the revised SOC information below with a ten-day NOA (the original language was included in ACWDL 05-21). The revised SOC information below must be provided to those individuals in converted cases only prior to October 21, 2005.

  "In the past, IHSS/Personal Care Services Program individuals with a SOC automatically met that SOC at the beginning of each month and that SOC amount was deducted from the in-home service provider's payment for services. Beginning November 1, 2005, the SOC must be met using Medi-Cal rules. This means that you are responsible for your medical expenses until your SOC has been met. For example, if you visit your doctor at the beginning of the month and you have not met your SOC yet, you must pay for that office visit (or a portion of that office visit up to your SOC amount).

  The amount that you need to pay your in-home service provider as part of SOC will be reduced or eliminated by the amount you pay for other services if you have received other services before you pay your in-home provider for services he/she has provided to you. Once your SOC has been met, Medi-Cal will pay for your medical services, including in-home care. When your in-home services provider submits their time sheet, if you have a remaining SOC balance your provider's payment will be reduced by the amount you still owe. You will receive an Explanation of Benefits from your county's in-home services program that tells you how much you owe to your in-home service provider. Contact your IHSS worker for additional information on how your in-home services expenses may be applied to your monthly Medi-Cal SOC."

- For the September 2005 month of eligibility, automatic Medi-Cal eligibility associated with aid codes 18, 28, and 68 will be turned off when other full-scope no SOC
- Medi-Cal eligibility appears on MEDS. At that point, those aid codes (as well as 1F, 2F, and 6F) will be used for tracking purposes only for those individuals.

- For the November month of eligibility, aid codes 18, 28, 68, 1F, 2F, and 6F will be completely turned off. By that time CMIPS will send the 2L, 2M, and 2N aid codes to MEDS.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Ms. Vicki Partington at (916) 552-9496 or e-mail Vparting@dhs.ca.gov.

Original Signed By

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Medi-Cal Eligibility Branch