STATE OF CALIFORNIA—HEALTH AND WELFARE AGENCY

GEORGE DEUKMEJIAN, Governor

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES
14/744 P STREET
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814

June 3, 1983

To: All County Welfare Directors

Letter No. 83-42

MONTEREY COUNTY HEALTH INITIATIVE

The Monterey Health Initiative Plan (MHIP) is a Medi-Cal pilot project designed to develop a more economical organization of health care resources on a case management basis which is designed to increase continuity of care and reduce referrals to inappropriate providers. This letter is to inform you that claims for health services rendered on or after June 1, 1983, to Monterey County Health Initiative Plan Medi-Cal recipients will be submitted to and paid by the MHIP. Claims for these recipients will no longer be submitted to Computer Sciences Corporation (CSC).

The following major policy changes should be noted.

- Eligibility

  All Monterey County residents (County Code 27) who are eligible to receive medical benefits under Medi-Cal or as Medicare crossovers will be served through the Health Initiative Plan.

- Health Initiative Card

  A Health Initiative Card will be issued monthly. It will be blue in color, of cardboard stock and the size of a normal credit card. The name and the telephone number of the recipient's personal physician will be listed on the card. Medi-Cal recipients will continue to receive a restricted Medi-Cal card for dental services only.

- Personal Physician

  Prior to June 1, 1983, each Medi-Cal recipient residing in Monterey County will have been assigned a personal physician who has contracted with the MHIP to act as a case manager and to control utilization of health services.

- Authorization for Treatment

  The personal physician has accepted responsibility for monitoring the recipient's medical care and has accepted accountability for the quality and cost of care rendered. If he deems it necessary, he may arrange for the recipient to see a specialist. The recipient must present his Health Initiative card so that the consulting specialist can verify that the personal physician of record actually made the referral. If no card is presented by the recipient, eligibility must be established by calling the Health Initiative, (408) 757-0772, which will furnish the name and telephone number of the personal physician. If the call is from a provider outside the county, the Health Initiative will respond directly to the authorization request.

o Emergency Services

An emergency condition is one in which the patient has severe pain or symptoms which, if not treated immediately, could lead to disability or death. In such circumstances, any provider may immediately accept full responsibility for the patient and use whatever means necessary to eliminate the emergency nature of the patient's condition. As soon as the emergency condition has been controlled or eliminated, the personal physician or the Health Initiative must be notified. Any failure to report continuing care within 24 hours of the initial encounter shall, in the absence of mitigating circumstances, invalidate the entire claim.

o Covered Services

All services authorized for Medi-Cal reimbursement will be provided through the Health Initiative Plan with the following exceptions which will be handled through the existing fee-for-service system: dental, Child Health Disability Prevention (CHDP), Short-Doyle/Medi-Cal services, and services provided under California Children Services that are not reimbursable under Title XIX. Claims for such services should continue to be submitted to the appropriate agencies.

o Billing and Payment for Services

Claims for services rendered on or after June 1, 1983, must be submitted to the Health Initiative Plan with the appropriate authorization forms. Standard Medi-Cal claim forms are acceptable. In the event the recipient has other insurance or third party liability involvement, the Health Initiative shall be considered the payor of last resort. Claims will be sent to:

Monterey County Health Initiative Plan
P.O. Box 80006
Salinas, CA 95312

Providers serving Monterey County Medi-Cal recipients will no longer be reimbursed for those services rendered on or after June 1, 1983 through Computer Sciences Corporation even if a Treatment Authorization Request (TAR) was approved for services to be rendered on or after that date.

Should you have any questions regarding the information presented in this letter, please contact Sandra Carol Pierce, Project Manager, Department of Health Services, Co/HMO Development Section, 714 P Street, Sacramento, CA 95814, (916) 324-4271.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY

Jo Ann Wray
Acting Deputy Director
Health Care Policy and
Standards Division

cc: Medi-Cal Liaisons
Medi-Cal Program Consultants