STATE OF CALIFORNIA—HEALTH AND WELFARE AGENCY

George Deukmejian, Governor

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES
714/744 P STREET
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814

To: All County Welfare Directors

Date: June 20, 1983

Other Health Coverage Indicator Change:
CHAMPUS Eligibles

Letter No. 83-48

In December 1982, the Department matched the Medi-Cal eligibles file against the CHAMPUS (Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Uniformed Services) eligibles file. The elements used to identify Medi-Cal recipients on the CHAMPUS file were the social security number, name, date of birth, and health insurance claim number or a second social security number. The matched recipients were CHAMPUS eligible as of June 1982.

As a result of this match, we discovered over 22,000 Medi-Cal recipients were not reflected as CHAMPUS eligible on their Medi-Cal records. The improper other health coverage (OHC) coding on the Medi-Cal card creates a potential loss to the Medi-Cal program of $15 million per year in cost avoidance dollars. Since the Department does not, as yet, have the capacity to change the OHC indicator on the Medi-Cal card, counties will be responsible for correcting the indicators.

Section 14023 of the Welfare and Institutions Code and 50175 and 50763 of the California Administrative Code, Title 22, require Medi-Cal recipients to report other health coverage. Those recipients who are currently Medi-Cal eligible and may need an OHC indicator change are listed on the enclosed printout. The printout may separate into three lists:

1. If we were able to identify by eligibility worker, the beneficiaries will be listed under the eligibility worker number.

2. If we could not identify by eligibility worker, the beneficiaries are listed by district number.

3. If we could not identify by district or eligibility worker number, the beneficiaries are listed by their aid category. Our records do not contain the second digit of the aid category; therefore, these beneficiaries are listed by "tens of aid" (the first digit of the aid category). The system drops the second digit because it can change from month to month.

In some counties, we could identify all beneficiaries by eligibility worker number. The left corner of the printout gives the breakdown of the information on each page. The recipients are identified by Medi-Cal I.D. number, name, social security number, and the OHC indicator as of June 1982. If the OHC indicator was not entered, "missing" will appear in the OHC indicator column.

Instructions for Changing the Current OHC Indicator to "C"

- If the recipient remains CHAMPUS eligible, the current OHC indicator must be changed to "C" no later than July 29, 1983.

- If the recipient claims he/she is no longer eligible for CHAMPUS, please use the following criteria to verify eligibility. The recipient must provide written documentation that he/she is not a:
  1. Spouse of an active duty or retired member of the Uniformed Services.

  2. Unmarried child, until age 21, of active duty or retired member of the Uniformed Services (23, if a student).

  3. Unremarried widow or widower of deceased active duty or retired member of the Uniformed Services.

  4. Unmarried child, until age 21, of deceased active duty or retired member of the Uniformed Services (23, if a student)

- Recipients must contact your office by July 22, 1983, if they are no longer CHAMPUS eligible.

- If the recipient is not Medi-Cal eligible, please note "no code change" in the Date Change Made column.

- Please note the date the current OHC indicator was changed in the Date Change Made column.

- If the recipient is no longer eligible for CHAMPUS and the current indicator is correct, please note the specific reason the change did not occur in the Date Change Made column. For example: over-age, divorced, dependent married, widow(er) married, or sponsor not active military or not retired.

- When all action is complete on your list, please return it to the Recovery Branch address printed on the list, or as follows:

  Recovery Branch
  Health Insurance Unit
  CHAMPUS Return
  714/744 P Street
  Sacramento, CA 95814

We are also enclosing a copy of the letter notifying recipients of the impending change in the OHC indicator on their Medi-Cal cards. Eligibility workers should be made aware of the information contained in the recipients' letter. We will mail the notice to the recipients on or about June 24, 1983. The recipient has 30 days to notify the county if he/she is no longer CHAMPUS eligible. Recipients are being

instructed to contact the nearest military personnel office with any questions related to their CHAMPUS coverage.

The recipients who are no longer Medi-Cal eligible were notified by the enclosed letter of their failure to report CHAMPUS coverage. Enclosed for your information and follow up with your eligibility staff is the listing of the recipients who are no longer eligible for Medi-Cal and should have reported CHAMPUS coverage.

The content of this letter has been discussed with the CWDA Medical Care Committee and their concerns have been incorporated. If you or your staff have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Glenda Torres, Recovery Branch, (916) 739-3247 or (800) 952-5294.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY

Caroline Cabias, Chief
Eligibility Branch

cc: Medi-Cal Liaisons
Medi-Cal Consultants
D. Jerome Hansen, Chief
Recovery Branch

Attachment
Enclosures