STATE OF CALIFORNIA—HEALTH AND WELFARE AGENCY GEORGE DEUKMEJIAN, Governor

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES
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July 10, 1987
Letter No. 87-38

TO: All County Welfare Directors
County Administrative Officers

MEDI-CAL BUY-IN OF MEDICARE PART B PREMIUMS/EFFECTIVE DATE

This letter is to provide clarification on the effective date for, and when to predict, state payments of Part B Medicare premiums. (All County Welfare Directors Letter No. 86-21 was similar in content, but expired on August 31, 1986.)

California Administrative Code (CAC), Title 22, Section 50773(b) provides that state payment of Part B premiums under Buy-In provisions shall become effective the third month of Medi-Cal eligibility for Medically Needy persons who were not eligible for a federally covered Medi-Cal program in the month before their first month of MN eligibility.

To ensure statewide uniformity and to eliminate related quality control (QC) errors, counties should assume and predict that State Buy-In Coverage commences in the third month of eligibility, regardless of those cases that may take longer to complete the Buy-In process. Any overstated shares of cost resulting from third month prediction can be adjusted in later months as provided in CAC, Title 22, Section 50653.3. To avoid QC errors, make a notation in the case record narrative of the date of DHS notification.

In those situations where the county is notified that an individual was inadvertently dropped from Buy-In, (as opposed to those cases experiencing difficulty being processed originally) the county will:

1. Notify DHS on the State Buy-In Problem Report (HAS-8) to resume Buy-In as provided in CAC, Title 22, Section 50765(3). To avoid QC errors, retain a dated photocopy of the HAS-8 in the case record or make a notation in the case record narrative of the date of DHS notification.

2. Adjust any overstated share of cost in those months where timely reporting occurred or occurs as provided in CAC, Title 22, Section 50653.3(a).

3. Predict that Buy-In will occur in the third full month following notification to DHS as provided in item 1 above.

Any questions regarding this policy should be directed to Marge Buzdas of my Policy staff at (916) 323-4129 or Sharyl Shanen of my Quality Control staff at (916) 322-2551.

Sincerely,

Original signed by

Frank S. Martucci, Chief
Medi-Cal Eligibility Branch

cc: Medi-Cal Liaisons
Medi-Cal Program Consultants

Expiration Date: December 31, 1988