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

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

January 26, 1988

TO: All County Welfare Directors
All County Administrative Officers

Letter: 88 - 04

SUBJECT: VETERANS AID AND ATTENDANCE PAYMENTS

This is to advise you that on February 1, 1988, emergency regulations are expected to be effective which will change the treatment of veterans aid and attendance (A&A) payments. You will be sent an advance copy of these regulations as soon as they are filed.

Currently, A&A payments are considered income and are used in determining a veteran's share of cost. Under the revised regulations, A&A payments will be treated as third party payments, i.e., other health coverage.

For veterans who are not in long term care (LTC), their shares of cost will have to be recomputed without consideration of the A&A payments as income. However, counties will not have to monitor the use of A&A payments as a third party payment.

For veterans in LTC, there will be no change in procedures in order to facilitate the other health coverage process. That is, the amount of the A&A payment will continue to be reflected in the LTC veteran's share of cost amount and paid to the facility, since the LTC veteran has to apply the A&A payment towards the costs of his/her health care before Medi-Cal can be billed. Thus, for a veteran in LTC, neither the county, the LTC veteran, nor the LTC facility will have to alter any of their activities to implement this change.

Attached is a copy of a stuffer which is to be sent with the February, 1988 Medi-Cal cards to all non LTC beneficiaries, advising them of the change in treatment of A&A payments. Affected veterans are being told to contact their county eligibility workers immediately to have their shares of cost recomputed. Counties will not have to do any case searches. The change in treatment of A&A payments is effective the earlier of (1) the month the veteran contacts the county welfare department or (2) the month the county has to take some new action on this case, but in no event, no later than the next annual redetermination.

If you have any questions, please contact Marge Buzdas at (916) 323-4129.

Sincerely,

Original signed by

Frank S. Martucci, Chief
Medi-Cal Eligibility Branch

Attachment

cc: Medi-Cal Liaisons
Medi-Cal Program Consultants

Expiration Date: January 31, 1989

IMPORTANT NOTICE

AT-HOME RECIPIENTS OF VETERANS AID AND ATTENDANCE PAYMENTS

Effective February 1, 1988, Veterans Aid and Attendance (A&A) payments are no longer considered as income. This means:

1) If you are an A&A recipient living at home and paying a monthly share of cost towards the cost of health care services before you are certified and receive a Medi-Cal card, your share of cost may be decreased because A&A payments are no longer considered as income. Instead, these payments will be treated as other health care coverage.

Therefore, if you are an A&A recipient living at home and paying a share of cost, YOU SHOULD NOTIFY YOUR ELIGIBILITY WORKER IMMEDIATELY, SO THAT YOUR SHARE OF COST AMOUNT MAY BE RECALCULATED.

2) If you are an A&A recipient living at home and you have Medi-Cal covered attendant services (that is, the services are a Medi-Cal benefit--such as home health aide services), the following may be of interest to you. The Department of Health Services (DHS) will be evaluating whether a portion of A&A payments are meant to cover services which Medi-Cal also is covering. Should DHS determine that some or all of your A&A payment duplicates Medi-Cal covered services, you will be notified.

3) If you are an A&A recipient residing in a long-term care facility, this change does not apply to you.

If you have any questions regarding this notice, please contact your Medi-Cal Eligibility Worker.