STATE OF CALIFORNIA—HEALTH AND WELFARE AGENCY

GEORGE DEUKMEJIAN, *Governor*

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

April 19, 1988

TO: All County Welfare Directors
All County Administrative Officers

Letter 88-27

SUBJECT: PROMPTNESS REQUIREMENT

In keeping with the Department's efforts to promote prenatal care and facilitate speedy access to such care by Medi-Cal beneficiaries, we are once again reminding counties to be diligent in practicing the provisions of the Promptness Requirement as set forth in Title 22, California Code of Regulations (CCR), Section 50177 and Procedures Manual Section 4-J.

Pursuant to these sections, counties must expedite the eligibility determination of any applicant with an immediate medical need within available resources.

Pregnancy is considered an immediate medical need. It is very important that pregnant Medi-Cal beneficiaries be made aware as early as possible of the pregnancy-related services that are available to them through the Medi-Cal Comprehensive Perinatal Services program, which provides nutrition, health education and psychosocial services in addition to regular medical care. When such prenatal care is received early, the likelihood of healthy pregnancies and healthy infants is increased, thereby lowering medical costs.

Please take adequate steps to ensure that the Promptness Requirement is being followed. In this way, pregnant women can be assured of receiving the full benefit of early prenatal care.

Please note that this letter supersedes All County Welfare Directors Letter #87-24, which was issued May 13, 1987.

If you have any questions, please contact Tony Plescia at (916) 324-4954.

Sincerely,

Frank S. Martucci

Frank S. Martucci, Chief
Medi-Cal Eligibility Branch

cc: Medi-Cal Liaisons
Medi-Cal Program Consultants

Expiration Date: April 1, 1989