STATE OF CALIFORNIA—HEALTH AND WELFARE AGENCY

PETE WILSON, *Governor*

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES
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October 23, 1991

TO: All County Welfare Directors
All County Administrative Officers
All County Medi-Cal Program Specialists/Liaisons

Letter No.: 91-93

SUBJECT: MEDICARE HEALTH INSURANCE CLAIM NUMBER

The purpose of this letter is to inform counties that effective October 1, 1991, the Department of Health Services' Medicare Premium Payment Unit (MPPU) will require a Medicare Health Insurance Claim (HIC) number on the MEDS record before submitting a "Buy-In" accretion to the Health Care Financing Administration for Medi-Cal and/or Qualified Medicare Beneficiaries (QMBs) who are entitled to Medicare Part B benefits. In order to ensure that Medi-Cal recipients are added to the Medicare Buy-In Program timely, the County worker must now enter the recipient's HIC number on the MEDS record for all Medicare eligibles.

This change is needed because Department studies have shown limited success by using the Medi-Cal recipient's Social Security Number (SSN) when attempting to "Buy-In". Additionally, use of an SSN has sometimes resulted in delay of premium payment when a county reported the HIC number late and the Buy-In system was in the process of attempting to accrete an individual based on the SSN.

Questions regarding this issue should be directed to Jo Monday at (916) 739-3206.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY

Frank S. Martucci, Chief
Medi-Cal Eligibility Branch