State of California—Health and Human Services Agency
Department of Health Services

California Department of Health Services

SANDRA SHEWRY
Director

ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER
Governor

January 13, 2005

Medi-Cal Eligibility Branch Information Letter No.: I 04-08

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS
ALL COUNTY MEDI-CAL PROGRAM SPECIALISTS/LIAISONS

SUBJECT: NEW MEDI-CAL BENEFITS IDENTIFICATION CARDS

The purpose of this Medi-Cal Eligibility Branch Information Letter is to provide County Welfare Departments with advance notification regarding the issuance of new Benefits Identification Cards (BIC) with a 14-character alphanumeric Identification (ID) starting in January 2005. These new cards will be phased in statewide over a six-month period. The current BICs have either a ten-character numeric ID (Social Security Number + check digit) or a ten-character alphanumeric ID (state issued Client Index Number + check digit) number.

The new BIC IDs are comprised of a nine-character alphanumeric ID with a check digit and a four-digit Julian date that matches the date of issue on the BIC. As part of the phase-in process, the new ID will be processed the same as the current ten-character alphanumeric BIC ID.

The issuance of the new BIC ID numbers will bring the Department of Health Services into compliance with Senate Bill 25, which requires the removal of the Social Security Number from the BIC by July 1, 2005, the Medi-Cal Antifraud Operation's BIC Replacement Project that requires the reissuance of all BICs with a new 14-character encrypted identification number, and Assembly Bill (AB) 3029, which requires providers to use the 14-character ID for billing Medi-Cal. The AB 3029 requirements will not be implemented until the statewide BIC reissuance is completed.

All Medi-Cal Providers will be receiving a special flyer with their November 2004 Medi-Cal Provider Bulletin informing them of the new ID number. The flyer has been posted to the Medi-Cal website and a copy of the flyer is enclosed for your information

1501 Capitol Avenue, Suite 71.4063, MS 4607, P.O Box 997417
Sacramento, CA 95899-7417
(916) 552-9430 Fax: (916) 552-9478
www dhs ca gov

The information will be repeated in the December 2004 and January 2005 provider bulletins. The Department will be issuing a special BIC stuffer (beneficiary notice) that will be going out with the new BICs towards the end of January 2005.

If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Marlene King, at (916) 552-9512.

Original signed by

Tameron Mitchell, R.D., M.P.H., Chief
Medi-Cal Eligibility Branch

Enclosure