

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES

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March 7, 1994

TO: All Holders of the Medi-Cal Eligibility Manual

ERRATA NOTICE MANUAL LETTER NO. 126

Enclosed are some revisions to the procedures on the Continued Eligibility Program.

Procedure RevisionDescription

1. Article--5H

Continued Eligibility
Program proceduresFiling Instructions:Remove pagesInsert pages

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5H-18 thru 21

5H-18 thru 21

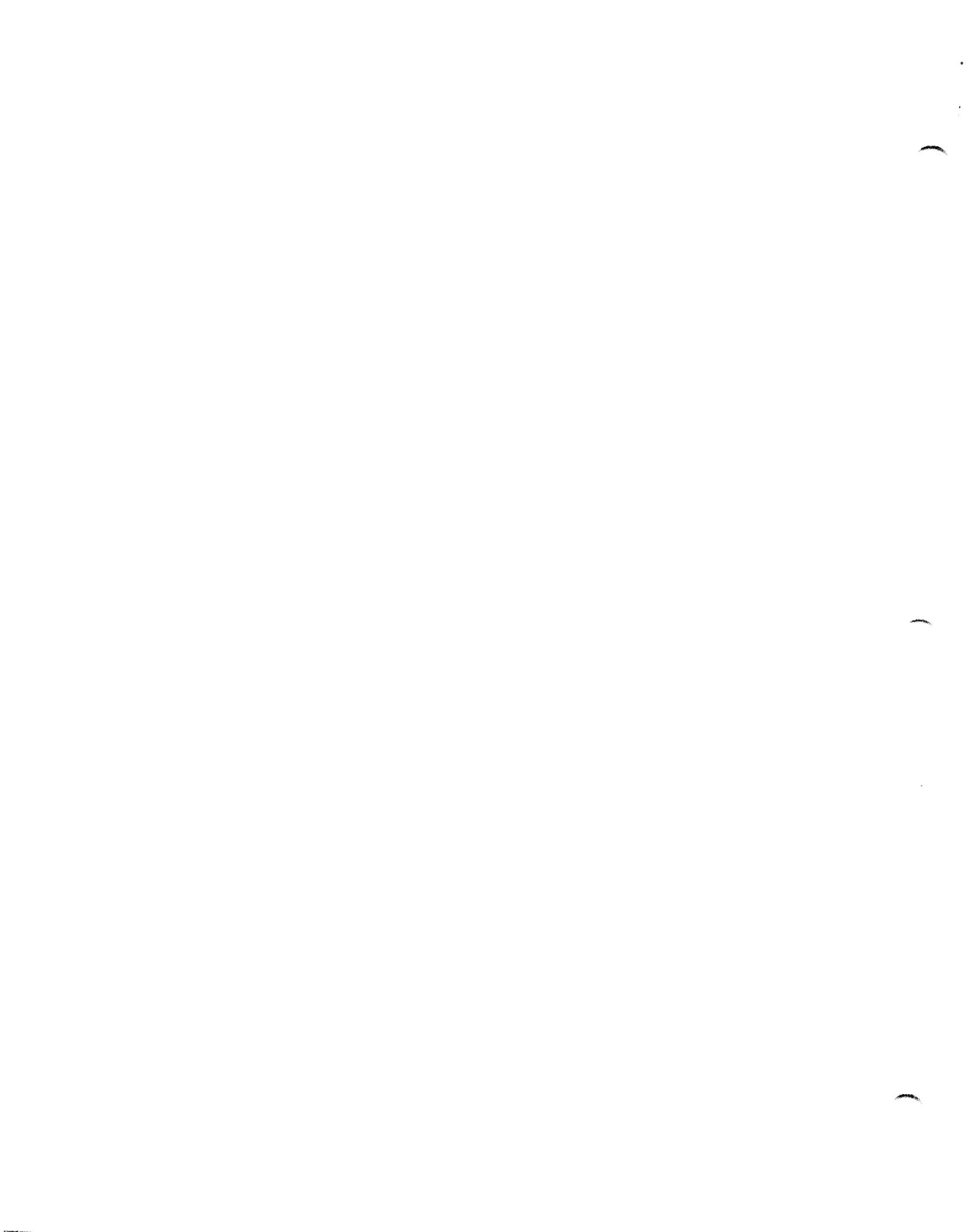
If you have any questions concerning a specific revision, please contact Ms. Lisa Reagan at (916) 657-3719.

Sincerely,

Original signed by

**Frank S. Martucci, Chief
Medi-Cal Eligibility Branch**

Enclosures



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QUESTION 27: Is it true that all infants would be entitled to no-SOC Medi-Cal under CE because of the 60-Day Postpartum Period?

ANSWER: No. If a pregnant woman is receiving Medi-Cal benefits with a SOC during her pregnancy, the infant will have the same SOC as the mother had in the month of delivery. This pregnant woman's SOC would never increase until after the 60-day postpartum period, so the infant's SOC also would never increase. In the situation where a woman has a zero SOC during her pregnancy as MN/MI or under either the 185/200 percent program, and, therefore, would be entitled to zero SOC under the 185/200 percent programs for the postpartum period, the infant will have a zero SOC. In any case, the infant's SOC is based on the mother's SOC, if any, during the month of delivery.

QUESTION 28: An infant under one year of age is residing with his/her mother and receiving the benefits of CE. The mother has an accident and is hospitalized and absent from the home for one month. The infant remains in the home and another family member moves in to care for the infant. Is the infant still deemed eligible and allowed the benefit of CE?

ANSWER: Yes. Although the infant is briefly separated from the mother during this period, the mother is considered temporarily absent from the home and plans to return and reside with the infant.

QUARTERLY STATUS REPORTS (QSRs)

QUESTION 29: Does the county discontinue a pregnant woman who is in an MFBU with other family members if the family does not submit a QSR?

ANSWER: Yes. Only MFBUs consisting solely of eligible pregnant women and/or infants under one year of age are not required to adhere to the QSR requirements. However, if the pregnant woman or infant up to one year of age is in an MFBU which includes other family members who are eligible for Medi-Cal, the family is still required to submit a QSR since the other MFBU members are not exempt from this requirement.

QUESTION 30: Do you discontinue just the pregnancy-related or full-scope benefits?

ANSWER: In the situation described in question #29, counties should discontinue both the pregnancy-related and full-scope services for the pregnant woman and the full-scope services for the family members.

QUESTION 31: For those counties who automatically generate QSRs and are not able to suppress distribution of the form to households consisting solely of eligible pregnant women and infants up to one year of age, how should counties handle this situation?

ANSWER: If counties cannot suppress the distribution of the QSRs to these populations, counties should not discontinue these beneficiaries if they do not return the QSR, nor should any increases in income be counted if CE is applicable.

QUESTION 32: After the infant is born, if the family does not submit a QSR, are all family members except the infant discontinued?

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RESPONSE: No. Only in households where a pregnant woman and/or infant are the only Medi-Cal eligibles is the requirement to submit a QSR waived. If the pregnant woman or infant up to one year of age is in an MFBU which includes other eligible family members, the family is still required to submit a QSR since the other MFBU members are not exempt from this requirement. Therefore, all persons including the infant would be discontinued in this situation.

QUESTION 33: QSRs need not be generated for MFBUs with only an eligible pregnant woman and/or infant under one year of age. However, income decreases can be applied to the SOC and the MFBU is ineligible if there is excess property. If an income decrease or excess property is not reported, will counties be charged with an error?

ANSWER: No. Although MFBUs consisting solely of an eligible pregnant woman and/or an infant under age one are not required to submit QSRs, they are nevertheless still required to report changes to the county within ten days. Therefore, if any beneficiary fails to report changes such as a decrease in income or excess property, this is not a county-caused error, but rather a beneficiary-caused error.

CASE COUNTS

QUESTION 34: Does a county receive an additional case count for eligibles under the CE Program?

ANSWER: To ensure adequate funding for the additional workload of the EW who is required to establish additional MFBUs as a result of CE, counties will receive additional case counts. As currently allowed under the 185 and 200 Percent Program, in addition to the usual manner in which counties report regular MN/MI caseload activity to the Department, counties may also claim additional caseload activity for pregnant women established under the 185 and 200 Percent Program. For those pregnant women who are MN/MI with no SOC, and who after an increase in income the county would treat as though they were eligible under the 185 Percent Program, counties should claim additional caseload activity for the zero SOC unit established for the pregnant woman for her pregnancy-related services. In the situation where a MN/MI pregnant woman with a SOC has an income increase, the county therefore sets up a separate budget unit for the pregnant woman and her unborn for full-scope services with the original SOC and the same aid codes. The county may claim additional caseload activity for this separate budget unit. In these situations, counties should not claim the original MFBU with the increased SOC as an intake since the original MFBU was already reported on the MC 237. The county should report the original full-scope MFBU as a continuing case only.

SNEEDE ISSUES

QUESTION 35: If Sneede applies and the unmarried father's income is to be allocated among those for whom he is responsible, is the infant counted even though the infant will receive an income allocation under CE?

ANSWER: Yes. Even though the father's income is not counted in determining the infant's SOC level, the unmarried father's income receives a deduction for the infant.

QUESTION 36: In example 2, page 6 of these procedures, would it not be more appropriate to establish another MBU rather than an MFBU?

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ANSWER: No. In terms of setting the case up on the system, MEDS does not care whether an MBU or MFBU is established. As far as the computers are concerned, MBUs are not different than MFBU's. Establishing an MFBU allows the medical expenses and income to be double-counted. If set up in an MBU, the income would be prorated again. This is inappropriate since only the responsible relatives' and infants' expenses are used and you are counting everyone's income again.

MINOR CONSENT PROGRAM

QUESTION 37: Does CE apply to Women eligible for the Minor Consent Program?

ANSWER: Yes. If a minor is receiving services for pregnancy under the Minor Consent Program, CE may apply whether she has a SOC or zero SOC. Remember, CE applies to any Medi-Cal eligible pregnant woman who has an increase in income.

QUESTION 38: Does CE apply to infants born to Minor Consent Eligibles.

ANSWER: No. We have changed our policy on this issue. Infants born to Minor Consent moms are not eligible for the benefits of CE. The mother is required to obtain an application and an SSN for this infant. In addition, these infants are not exempt from income increases under CE.

60-DAY POSTPARTUM PROGRAM

QUESTION 39: Please clarify how the zero SOC for postpartum services is affected by CE.

ANSWER: Pregnant women who are entitled to Medi-Cal with a SOC for their full-scope services are entitled to zero SOC postpartum services under aid code 76. Women who are receiving zero SOC for pregnancy-related services under the 185/200 Percent Program receive zero SOC during the postpartum period under this program. CE does not affect current policy in this area. The deemed eligible infant's SOC will be based on the mother's SOC during the month of delivery or lower if the family income decreases during the one-year period.

AFDC/EDWARDS/TRANSITIONAL MEDI-CAL (TMC) CASES

QUESTION 40: Does a person eligible for EDWARDS or TMC have to apply before the county would continue the case under the 185 percent program?

ANSWER: A pregnant woman who is discontinued from AFDC due to an increase in earned income or hours of employment is automatically eligible for TMC for at least six months and possibly twelve. No application is needed. Similarly, a pregnant woman, who is eligible for Edwards continuing zero SOC Medi-Cal after discontinuance from AFDC cash or TMC automatically receives an aid code 38 zero SOC card and continues to be eligible for such benefits until the county determines her eligibility for ongoing Medi-Cal only benefits. In some cases, the county may complete the Medi-Cal only determination based on information in file and a new application is not needed. In most cases, however, the Edwards recipient must complete and return an MC 210E in order for her (or her family's) ongoing Medi-Cal only eligibility to be determined. In either case, the county must apply the principles of CE to any pregnant woman or infant who experiences an income increase (or other change which would increase her SOC) after her Medi-Cal Only is established.

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That is, she must continue to receive a zero SOC card under the appropriate aid category until the end of her postpartum period.

QUESTION 41: If a woman is discontinued from AFDC three months after delivery, would a separate Medi-Cal application be needed for CE?

ANSWER: CE means that for pregnant women who are eligible for and receiving Medi-Cal, any income increases will be disregarded through the postpartum period. Therefore, CE does not apply in this situation and a separate application is not needed. Remember, however, that anyone discontinued from AFDC due to an increase in income will automatically receive zero SOC continued Medi-Cal under TMC or Edwards, whichever is applicable, and, therefore, a new application is not needed.

QUESTION 42: With AFDC eligibles, does CE only apply if the mother is discontinued from AFDC in the month of delivery?

ANSWER: CE applies to any Medi-Cal eligible pregnant woman regardless of the basis of her Medi-Cal eligibility, throughout her postpartum period who experiences an increase in income.

QUESTION 43: A pregnant woman is discontinued from AFDC. During the month she is discontinued, the county may not have determined whether she is eligible for Edwards or TMC. How does CE apply? How should this woman be treated?

ANSWER: The county doesn't need to address the question of CE until the pregnant woman is put on either Edwards or TMC, both of which are zero SOC.

If she is determined eligible as MN only, she will stay at zero SOC. If she would have a SOC, she will be evaluated under the 185 percent program.

QUESTION 44: Is an infant born to a pregnant women during the TMC period eligible for zero SOC Medi-Cal?

ANSWER: Yes. The infant's SOC is linked to the mother's SOC at birth. Therefore, in this situation it would stay at zero.

INTERCOUNTY TRANSFERS

QUESTION 45: How should counties handle intercounty transfers of cases where beneficiaries are receiving the benefits of CE? What forms should the county use? What SOC would county assign?

ANSWER: These cases should be treated the same way current intercounty transfers are. Counties should review the information contained in the case file and the SOC would depend on this and any new information.