## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES

14/744 P STREET
3. BOX 942732

JACRAMENTO, CA 94234-7320

(916) 657-2941



September 8, 1995

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

Letter No. 95-54

EXTENSION OF THE EARNED INCOME TAX CREDIT (EITC) TO AGED, BLIND, AND DISABLED (ABD) LINKED MEDI-CAL BENEFICIARIES

This All County Welfare Directors Letter is to inform counties that the EITC specified in Title 22, California Code of Regulations, Section 50543.5, is also applicable to individuals who are linked to Medi-Cal as ABD persons. Effective no later than November 1, 1995, extend the EITC exemption to ABD persons in new cases and apply this exemption to the EITC of ABD persons in continuing cases for months back through January 1, 1995 as the county becomes aware that EITC was received in any of these past months.

Direct questions or comments to Dave Rappolee of my staff at (916) 657-0163.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY

Frank S. Martucci, Chief Medi-Cal Eligibility Section

## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES

714/744 P STREET P.O. BOX 942732 SACRAMENTO, CA 94234-7320 (916) 657-2941



October 17, 1995

**Letter No.**: 95-54

TO: All County Welfare Directors
All County Administrative Officers

OTHER HEALTH COVERAGE CODING PROCEDURE CHANGE FOR HEALTH MAINTENANCE ORGANIZATION/PREPAID HEALTH PLAN EMERGENCY OUT-OF-AREA SERVICES

The Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1993 (OBRA 93) mandates that health care service plans (including Health Maintenance Organizations [HMO] and Prepaid Health Plans [PHP]) must enroll children in the absent parent's health plan regardless of whether the children reside within the health plan's service area. There is no provision in OBRA 93, however, that requires the health plan to provide routine out-of-area coverage for medical services. Typically, HMO/PHP contracts cover only emergency care provided out of the service area by nonplan providers. Faced with the question of how to ensure maximum utilization of this out-of-area coverage without jeopardizing the children's access to care, the Department of Health Services (Department) will post-pay recover ("pay and-chase") claims for all recipients residing outside the service area of a private HMO/PHP, or who must travel more than 60 miles or 60 minutes to receive care.

Normally, a Medi-Cal eligibility record of a recipient with an HMO/PHP plan is assigned the Other Health Coverage (OHC) code "K"- Kaiser, "C"- Champus, or "P"- other HMO/PHP. In the past, if the recipient had to travel more than 60 miles or 60 minutes to receive care from a plan provider, the OHC code was replaced with an "N", denoting no other coverage.

As a result of the Department's decision to post-pay recover, effective December 1, 1995, the "K", "C", or "P" codes are to be replaced with the pay-and-chase code "A" when the client reports he/she resides outside the plan's service area or must travel more than 60 minutes or 60 miles to receive care from the HMO/PHP. A Health Insurance Questionnaire (DHS 6155) must be sent to the Department, with the statement "Outside Health Plan Area" noted in question number 1, next to the insurance carrier's name.

The Department is currently developing the capability to bill the HMO/PHP for emergency out-of-area claims. Using the OHC code of "A" will facilitate the carrier billing. Providers will be advised that claims for recipients with such out-of-area coverage may be billed directly to Medi-Cal without proof of HMO/PHP denial.

All County Welfare Directors All County Administrative Officers Page 2

If you have any questions regarding this new procedure, please call Ms. Chari Hug of the Health Insurance Section at (916) 327-0492.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGEND BY

Frank S. Martucci, Chief Medi-Cal Eligibility Branch

**Enclosure** 

## HEALTH INSURANCE QUESTIONNAIRE

Please provide all the information reducted and let un this form to your eligibility worker. Use and attactive carry of your insurance that improvishes and to any other and to half complete this quarrunnam PECASE TYPE as PRINT DO NOT ABBREVIATE. Additional instructional information collection and access the on the levelse of you have any questions about completely this form of require Spanish transaction. But it is 600 pt. 10 pt. 10

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