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April 23, 2020

Medi-Cal Eligibility Division Information Letter No.: I 20-05

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS
ALL COUNTY MEDI-CAL PROGRAM SPECIALISTS/LIAISONS
ALL COUNTY WELFARE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS
ALL COUNTY MEDS COORDINATORS
ALL COUNTY HEALTH EXECUTIVES
ALL COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH DIRECTORS

SUBJECT: MEDI-CAL ELIGIBILITY DATA SYSTEM CHANGES TO THE
INCARCERATION AND SUSPENSION PROCESS
(Reference: ACWDLs 14-26, 14-26E, 17-29, and 17-29E)

Purpose

The purpose of this letter is to inform Counties and the Statewide Automated Welfare Systems (SAWS) of changes to the Medi-Cal Eligibility Data System (MEDS) to process incarceration and suspension status for individuals who are known to MEDS. These changes are part of an overall change to the incarceration process and the way incarceration and release information is reported to, and suspension is processed by, MEDS. The SAWS, in partnership with the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS), are expected to make system changes in order to implement the changes in processing of incarceration and suspension, when necessary. The MEDS changes outlined in this letter do not change previously provided policy guidance to incarceration, suspension of Medi-Cal Benefits or eligibility to the Medi-Cal Inmate Eligibility Program (MCIEP) via All County Welfare Directors Letters (ACWDLs) 14-26 and 14-26E. Any changes in policy regarding incarceration, suspension or eligibility to the MCIEP will continue to be provided through ACWDLs.

Background

Currently, either the County Welfare Department (CWD) or DHCS will receive notification when an individual has become incarcerated. If the individual is on active Medi-Cal, a suspension of benefits is processed using the online MEDS transaction

EW32. The EW32 transaction is used to report an incarceration (initiating suspension), report a release (ending suspension), and to correct previously reported suspension and/or release dates. Suspension status has historically been displayed in MEDS as an Other Health Coverage (OHC) indicator of "I" (Institutionalization) and may include an OHC SOURCE of either "I" (County reported Institutionalization) or "J" (County reported release from Institutionalization) for releases that occur mid-month. MEDS allows suspension to be added or removed on a daily basis.

Overview of MEDS Changes to Incarceration and Suspension Processing

The summary below highlights a number of changes implemented in MEDS which serve to improve and enhance the incarceration and suspension process. SAWS consortia are expected to make programming changes to coordinate with the MEDS changes in order to automate reporting of incarceration to MEDS, when necessary. SAWS have been informed of MEDS implementation dates for the changes outlined below. Future updates will be provided through the use of the existing notification process of Work Groups, Change Cycle letters and 60-Day Notices. MEDS Manual and MEDS Network Reference Guides will be updated to reflect changes to processes and data elements.

Summary of Changes

- I. MEDS will use existing functionality to indicate incarceration, suspension and release dates in the new INCARCERATION AND SUSPENSION INFORMATION (INQU) Screen. The OHC indicator "I" is no longer being used to indicate suspension. OHC Source Codes "I" and "J" are no longer being used to indicate a release within the month. The Health Insurance System (HIS) is no longer being used to store suspension periods.
- II. The new Restriction Codes in conjunction with Eligibility Status Code indicate incarceration for both full and partial months. The combination of Restriction Codes and Eligibility Status Codes utilizes existing MEDS logic to update Health Care Plan (HCP) enrollment status to indicate suspension, disenrollment, and recoupment, and will update Medicare Buy-In status to end or restart the Buy-In process. The Restriction Codes populate across MEDS Medi-Cal segments with the exception of INMATE, PAROLE and General Relief/Cash Assistance Program for Immigrants (GR/CAP) segments, allowing eligibility to be added or terminated as needed without interruption to eligibility in the excepted segments.

If the individual is incarcerated and released on the same day, there is no restriction to any active Medi-Cal benefits. The Eligibility Status Codes are not affected for INMATE, PAROLE, or GR/CAP segments in MEDS when a restriction is placed on the Medi-Cal segment(s). The new Restriction Codes are included in Attachment A and in the MEDS Quick Reference Guide.

- III. MEDS will keep current and historical incarceration and suspension status information and has the ability to store multiple incarceration dates, suspension dates, and release dates, including multiple incarceration periods occurring within the same month. This information is viewable by users through the INQU screen. This screen is updated through the use of the online EW32 transaction, through direct reporting to the State, and in a future enhancement, through a batch EW32 transaction. Detailed screen information is provided in the MEDS Manual.
- IV. IN/OUT MEDS functionality will no longer be used to indicate beginning and ending periods of eligibility to MCIEP. Full month eligibility for MCIEP is currently viewable by users through the Special Program Information screens in MEDS. Partial month eligibility for MCIEP is currently viewable by users through the Inmate Program Aid Codes Inquiry (INQV) screen. Detailed screen information is provided in the MEDS Manual. Note: The screen name will be changed to 'Date Specific Aid Codes Inquiry'. The future update will be provided through a Change Cycle Letter.
- V. The EW32 online transaction screen has been updated by replacing suspension date fields with incarceration date fields. The suspension date is determined by MEDS and is not user editable. The EW32 online transaction processing has been enhanced to allow incarceration and release date corrections to record more than eight months in the past.

NOTE: The EW32 transaction processes through overnight batch. In cases where immediate need for services must be established, the County shall follow standard Immediate Need process by utilizing the EW15 transaction. The EW15 transaction allows immediate need benefits to be issued when a MEDS record is indicated as incarcerated. In order to have eligibility reflected for the remainder of the month, the EW32 transaction must be submitted on the same day as the EW15.

- VI. New MEDS alerts will be created and changes to existing MEDS alerts may occur as changes to MEDS are implemented. New MEDS Alerts details will be provided through the Change Cycle Letter process.
- VII. New online messages have been created and added to the MEDS Manual and are included in Attachment A.
- VIII. Current existing incarceration records have been converted to the new functionality, outlined in items # I - VII above, concurrently with implementation. Existing suspension information (Policy Start/Stop Dates) previously displayed in the HIS screen was converted to the INQU Screen. The Policy Start Date was converted into the Incarceration and Suspend Date fields. These dates are the same because the individual was incarcerated at the time the suspension was established. This can be corrected if the actual incarceration date is known. The Policy Stop Date was converted into the Suspend End Date field and the Release Date is the day following the Suspend End Date. This can be corrected if the actual Release Date is known.
- IX. The MEDS Manual will be updated to include enhancements to the EW32 transaction and a new section for the Incarceration process.

Attachments:

Attachment A provides definitions of full and partial month MCIEP aid codes and incarceration periods, along with definitions of incarceration, release, and suspend dates. Attachment A also provides online messages for the EW32 transaction and new Restriction Code definitions and usage.

Attachment B provides examples of how the new functionality will process incarceration, release, suspension, changes to incarceration and release dates, and MCIEP eligibility.

Attachment C provides frequently asked questions and answers for the incarceration process, including suspension, new incarceration and release date fields, and corrections.

The changes described in I through VIII above were implemented beginning March 2020 Month of Eligibility (MOE). Subsequent to the initial implementation, planned

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enhancements have been scheduled. Implementation dates for the subsequent enhancements will be provided through the stakeholder work group, Change Cycle letters, and 60-Day Notices. MEDS Manual and MEDS Network Reference Guides have been updated with the changes described in this letter.

If you have any questions or comments regarding the information in this letter, please contact Linda Page, by phone at (916) 345-8072 or e-mail at linda.page@dhcs.ca.gov with a CC: to mciep@dhcs.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Original Signed By

Sandra Williams, Chief
Medi-Cal Eligibility Division

Definition of Full Month vs. Partial Month MCIEP Aid Codes and Incarceration Periods

Full Month MCIEP Aid Code

An individual has full month eligibility in a particular Aid Code if the coverage is continuous from the first day of the month through the last day of the month. (Example: Aid Code is effective June 1 through June 30.)

Partial Month MCIEP Aid Code

An individual has partial month eligibility in a particular Aid Code if the coverage is not continuous from the first day of the month through the last day of the month. (Example: Individual is incarcerated on June 3rd and is released on August 5th. Both June and August are partial months. July is a full month.)

Full Month of Incarceration

A full month of incarceration is incarceration from the last day of the previous month through the first day of the next month. (Example: Individual is incarcerated on June 30; the first full day of incarceration is July 1st. Individual is released on August 1st; the last full day of incarceration is July 31st.)

Partial Month of Incarceration

A partial month of incarceration is incarceration that starts on the first day of the month or later and/or a release that occurs on the last day of the month or sooner. (Example: Individual is incarcerated on August 1st; the first full day of incarceration is August 2nd resulting in a partial month of incarceration. The individual is released on August 15th; the last full day of incarceration is August 14th.) The day of incarceration and day of release are not counted as full days of incarceration since they could receive Medi-Cal services on the same day they were incarcerated or released.

Definition of Incarceration, Release and Suspend Dates

DATA ELEMENT	DATE ENTERED ON EW32	DATE DISPLAYED ON INQU AND STORED IN MEDS DATE FILE	EXAMPLE
Incarceration Date	Actual day of incarceration	Actual day of incarceration	Incarceration Date is today and the County processes the EW32 tomorrow; the Incarceration Date will be today.
Release Date	Actual day of release from incarceration	Actual day of release from incarceration	Release date is today and the County processes the EW32 tomorrow; the Release Date will be today.
Suspend Date	Determined by MEDS when there is current Medi-Cal eligibility, excluding eligibility in General Relief/Cash Assistance Program (GR/CAP), INMATE or PAROLE segments)	Either: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Date EW32 was processed by MEDS OR • First full day of incarceration Whichever is the later date	Incarceration date is today and the County processes the EW32 today, however the first full day of incarceration is tomorrow, therefore Suspend Date will be tomorrow, the later date.
Suspend End Date	Determined by MEDS when there is an open suspension period & the person is released from incarceration or Medi-Cal eligibility is terminated	Either: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Last full day of incarceration (day prior to Release Date) OR • Last day of Medi-Cal eligibility Whichever is the earlier date	June 2020 Annual Redetermination determination results in a termination. 6/30/2020. Inmate is released on 6/17/2020. The Suspend End Date would be the earlier date. (6/16/2020) to restore the benefits. The beneficiary is eligible for Medi-Cal 6/17/2020 through 6/30/2020.

The table below contains online messages that are generated as a result of input errors on the EW32 transaction screen.

Online Messages Table:

<p>Message: 071 INCARCERATION PERIOD ALREADY ACTIVE ON MEDS Error: Correction Incarceration Date is equal to an incarceration date on MEDS and the Release date on the transaction is equal to the Release date on MEDS for the same period, or User has attempted to add a new incarceration period but an incarceration with no release date (open-ended) already exists.</p>
<p>Message: 072 INCARCERATION DATE CANNOT BE A FUTURE DATE Error: User has entered a start date greater than today's date on the EW32 screen.</p>
<p>Message: 073 RELEASE DATE CANNOT BE A FUTURE DATE Error: The release date on the transaction is greater than the current date.</p>

Message:

074 CORRECTION RELEASE DATE REQUIRES ORIGINAL RELEASE DATE

Error:

User attempts to add a Correction Release Date to a MEDS record and the Release Date is not populated on the transaction, or

User attempts to add a Correction Release Date to a MEDS record and the Release Date on the transaction does not match a Release Date on the MEDS record.

Message:

075 NO ACTIVE INCARCERATION TO RELEASE

Error:

When Release Date is being added to a MEDS record without an Incarceration Date.

Message:

077 DATE CONFLICTS WITH EXISITNG INCARCERATION

Error:

Correction Release Date overlaps an existing period of incarceration on the MEDS record. (Overlap: Correction Release Date is greater than an Incarceration Date on MEDS and less than a Release Date on MEDS for an existing period.)

Message:

082 RELEASE DATE CANNOT BE EARLIER THAN INCARCERATION DATE

Error:

User has entered an Incarceration Date or Correction Incarceration Date that is greater than the Release Date on the EW32 transaction.

Message:

083 RELEASE DATE MUST BE LATER THAN INCARCERATION DATE

Error:

Correction Release Date is earlier than the Incarceration Date on the transaction.

Message:

453 ORIGINAL INCARCERATION DATE REQUIRED

Error:

Original incarceration date is not included on a transaction to correct an Incarceration Date and/or Release Date.

454 EXISTING INCAR AND RELEASE DT FOR SAME PERIOD REQD

Error:

User attempts to add a Correction Release Date to a MEDS record and the required field Incarceration Date is not populated on the transaction, or

User attempts to add a Correction Release Date to a MEDS record and the Incarceration Date on the transaction does not match an Incarceration Date on the MEDS record, or

User attempts to add a Correction Release Date to a MEDS record and the Incarceration Date and Release Date are not for the same incarceration period.

Message:

455 REQUESTED ID HAS NO RECORDED INCARCERATION

Error:

MEDS does not have an incarceration recorded for the individual.

The tables below contain the Restriction Codes that are used to indicate incarceration.

Restriction Codes Table:

Restriction Code	Definition	Usage
800	Full month of incarceration	<p>1st and 2nd digits indicate State Assigned Restricted Service Status. Refer to the MEDS Manual for the list of Service Statuses.</p> <p>3rd digit indicates County-Identified Sensitive or Limited Service Cases.</p>
801	Full month of incarceration/limited access	
810	Full month of incarceration/Surveillance and Utilization Review Subsystem (SURS) overlaid	
811	Full month of incarceration/limited access/SURS overlaid	
820	Partial month of incarceration	
821	Partial month of incarceration/limited access	
830	Partial month of incarceration/SURS overlaid	
831	Partial month of incarceration/limited access/SURS overlaid	

Former Process (February 2020 & prior) vs. New Process (March 2020 & ongoing):
Examples of MEDS Changes to Process Incarceration and Suspension

EXAMPLE	FORMER PROCESS (Feb 2020 & prior)	NEW PROCESS (March 2020 & ongoing)
<p>1a (Incarceration and Suspension): A Medi-Cal beneficiary is incarcerated and the County suspends Medi-Cal eligibility.</p>	<p><u>Suspension:</u> Medi-Cal beneficiary is incarcerated on 6/01/2019. On 6/05/2019, the County is notified of the incarceration and submits an EW32 transaction using “today’s date” of 6/05/2019 as the suspension start date (rather than 6/01/2019), as this was the date the NOA was sent (per ACWDL 14-26).</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. For June 2019: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. MEDS creates a HIS record populated with a Policy Start Date of 06/05/2019 and a Policy Stop Date of 12/31/9999. b. MEDS updates the OHC indicator to “I” to indicate suspension due to incarceration. 	<p><u>Incarceration and Suspension:</u> Medi-Cal beneficiary is incarcerated on 3/01/2020. On 3/05/2020, the County submits an EW32 transaction to report an incarceration that began on 3/01/2020.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. For March 2020: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. MEDS populates the new Restriction Code to indicate partial month incarceration. b. MEDS updates the Eligibility Status Code to indicate partial month incarceration. c. MEDS updates the INCARCERATION AND SUSPENSION INFORMATION (INQU) screen as follows: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. MEDS populates the Status with “OPEN”. ii. MEDS populates the Incarceration Date (INCAR DATE) with the date of incarceration reported on the EW32: 3/01/2020. iii. MEDS populates the Suspend Date with the date the EW32 transaction was processed: 3/05/2020. 2. For April 2020 ongoing: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. MEDS populates the new Restriction Code to indicate full month incarceration. b. MEDS updates the Eligibility Status Code to indicate full-month incarceration.

<p>1b (Release and Ending Suspension): The Medi-Cal beneficiary is released from incarceration and the County lifts the suspension.</p>	<p><u>Ending Suspension:</u> On 6/15/2019, the County submits EW32 for individual released on 6/10/2019.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. For June 2019: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. MEDS populates the HIS record Policy Stop Date with the last full date of incarceration: 6/09/2019. b. The OHC remains "I" to indicate incarceration suspension due to incarceration. c. MEDS updates the OHC source to "J" to indicate partial month suspension due to incarceration. 2. For July 2019 ongoing: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. MEDS populates the OHC with "N". b. The OHC source is blank. 	<p><u>Release and Ending Suspension:</u> On 3/15/2020, the County submits EW32 for individual released on 3/10/2020.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. For March 2020: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. The Restriction Code remains the same to indicate partial month incarceration. b. The Eligibility Status Code remains the same to indicate partial month incarceration. c. MEDS updates the INQU screen as follows: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Status (STATUS) is updated to replace "OPEN" with "CLOSED". ii. Release Date (RELEASE DT) is populated with the release date reported on the EW32: 3/10/2020. iii. MEDS populates the Suspend End Date (SUSPEND END) with the last full day of incarceration based on the Release Date reported: 3/09/2020. 2. For April 2020 ongoing: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. MEDS removes the Restriction Code indicating incarceration. MEDS updates the Eligibility Status Code to indicate regular eligibility.
<p>2a (Incarceration and Suspension): A Medi-Cal beneficiary is incarcerated and the County suspends Medi-Cal eligibility.</p>	<p><u>Suspension:</u> On 6/05/2019, the County submits an EW32 transaction to report the suspension start date of 6/05/2019. (Same sequence of steps as in Example 1a.)</p>	<p><u>Incarceration and Suspension:</u> On 3/05/2020, the County submits an EW32 transaction to report an incarceration that began on 3/01/2020. (Same sequence of steps as in Example 1a.)</p>

<p>2b (MCIEP Eligibility and Release of Incarceration):</p> <p>The inmate is admitted to the hospital off the grounds of the facility and an application is approved for MCIEP eligibility.</p> <p>Subsequently the inmate is released from incarceration and the MCIEP is terminated.</p>	<p><u>Adding and Terminating MCIEP Eligibility:</u></p> <p>On 12/15/2019, an inmate is admitted to the hospital off the grounds of the facility and an application is submitted for MCIEP.</p> <p>On 1/01/2020, the County submits a MEDS transaction to approve County MCIEP effective 12/01/2019.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. For December 2019: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. MEDS adds the County MCIEP aid code to the Inmate segment. b. MEDS populates the IN date in the I/O-DAY field with "01" for December 2019 to indicate eligibility for County MCIEP beginning 12/01/2019. <p>On 1/30/2020, the County submits an EW 32 transaction to report a Release Date of 1/22/2020, to reflect the date the inmate is released from custody. The County also submits a MEDS transaction to terminate County MCIEP effective 1/21/2020, reflecting the last full day of incarceration.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. For January 2020: 	<p><u>Adding and Terminating MCIEP Eligibility:</u></p> <p>On 6/15/2020, an inmate is admitted to the hospital off the grounds of the facility and an application is submitted for MCIEP.</p> <p>On 7/01/2020, the County submits a MEDS transaction to approve County MCIEP effective 6/01/2020.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. For June 2020: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. MEDS adds the County MCIEP aid code to the IMMATE segment to reflect full month eligibility. <p>On 11/30/2020, the County submits an EW32 transaction to report a Release Date of 11/22/2020, to reflect the date the inmate is released from custody. The County also submits a MEDS transaction to terminate County MCIEP effective 11/21/2020, reflecting the last full day of incarceration.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. For November 2020: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. MEDS terminates MCIEP eligibility 11/21/2020 in the INMATE segment. b. MEDS populates the INMATE PROGRAM AID CODES INQUIRY (INQV) screen with County MCIEP date specific eligibility as follows: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. County MCIEP Aid Code is added (A/C). ii. County of Responsibility is added (CNTY). iii. Date Type (DT TYPE) is updated to TERM.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">a. MEDS populates the HIS record with a Policy Stop Date of 1/21/2020.b. The OHC remains “I” to indicate suspension due to incarceration.c. MEDS updates the OHC source to “J” to indicate partial month suspension due to incarceration.d. MEDS terminates the MCIEP eligibility on 1/21/2020.e. MEDS populates the OUT date in the I/O-DAY field with “21” to indicate the MCIEP termination date in January 2020. <p>3. For February 2020:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. MEDS populates the OHC with “N”.b. The OHC source is blank.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">iv. County MCIEP termination date of 11/21/2020 is added (START/TERM DT).c. MEDS updates the Eligibility Status Code to indicate partial month eligibility.d. MEDS updates the Restriction Code to indicate partial month incarceration.e. MEDS updates the INQU screen:<ul style="list-style-type: none">i. Updates the Status to CLOSED.ii. Adds a Suspend End Date of 11/21/2020.iii. Adds a Release Date of 11/22/2020. <p>3. For December 2020 ongoing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. MEDS updates the Eligibility Status Code to indicate regular eligibility.b. MEDS removes the Restriction Code indicating incarceration.
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The following examples describe the change from reporting corrected suspension dates to reporting corrected incarceration and release dates.

EXAMPLE	CURRENT PROCESS - Suspension	NEW PROCESS – Incarceration and Release
<p>1 (Incarceration Date Correction): A Medi-Cal beneficiary is incarcerated and the County suspends Medi-Cal eligibility according to the date of incarceration reported to the County.</p> <p>Subsequently the County is notified that the incarceration date is incorrect and needs to be corrected.</p>	<p>On 4/15/2019, the County is notified that a Medi-Cal beneficiary was incarcerated on 1/19/2019, and submits an EW32 transaction to report suspension beginning on 4/15/2019.</p> <p>On 11/22/2019, the County is notified that the individual was not incarcerated on 1/19/2019; the correct Incarceration Date is 4/19/2019. The County submits an EW32 transaction to <u>correct</u> the Suspension Start Date to 4/19/2019.</p> <p><u>EW32 Transaction:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Transaction contains the original Suspension Start Date of 4/15/2019. 2. Transaction contains the Corrected Start Date of 4/19/2019. <p>11/22/19: MEDS returns error message: 081 RETRO PERIOD LIMITED TO EIGHTH PRIOR MONTH</p>	<p>On 4/15/2020, the County is notified that a Medi-Cal beneficiary was incarcerated on 1/19/2020, and submits an EW32 transaction to report incarceration that began on 1/19/2020.</p> <p>On 11/22/2020, the County is notified that the individual was not incarcerated on 1/19/2020; the correct Incarceration Date is 4/19/2020. The County submits an EW32 transaction to <u>correct</u> the Incarceration Date to 4/19/2020:</p> <p><u>EW32 Transaction:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Transaction contains original Incarceration Date of 1/19/2020. 2. Transaction contains the corrected Incarceration Date of 4/19/2020. <p>For January 2020 through March 2020:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. MEDS updates the Eligibility Status Code to indicate regular eligibility. 2. MEDS removes the incarceration Restriction Code. 3. MEDS updates the INQU screen: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Updates the current “OPEN” Incarceration Date to 4/19/2020. <p>For April 2020:</p>

EXAMPLE	CURRENT PROCESS - Suspension	NEW PROCESS – Incarceration and Release
	<p>This requires the County to submit a remedy ticket to resolve.</p>	<p>1. MEDS updates the Eligibility Status Code to indicate partial month eligibility.</p> <p>For May 2020 ongoing:</p> <p>1. There are no changes to the record as full-month incarceration is already indicated.</p>
<p>2 (Release Date Correction): A Medi-Cal beneficiary is incarcerated and the County suspends Medi-Cal eligibility accordingly. County receives report that the incarcerated Medi-Cal beneficiary has been released and updates MEDS accordingly.</p> <p>Subsequently the County is notified that the release date is incorrect and needs to be corrected.</p>	<p>On 4/28/2018, the County is notified that a Medi-Cal beneficiary was incarcerated on 4/01/2018, and submits an EW32 transaction to report suspension beginning on 4/28/2018.</p> <p>On 7/01/2019, the County receives an update that the individual was released on 6/10/2019. The County submits an EW32 transaction to report the release of suspension on 6/10/2019 resulting in closed period suspension of 4/28/2018 to 6/09/2019.</p> <p>On 7/02/2019, the County receives a correction from the originally reported Release Date of 6/10/2019 to 6/10/2018.</p> <p>7/02/2019: The County submits an EW32 transaction to <u>correct</u> the Release Date to 6/10/2018 instead of the original report of 6/10/2019.</p> <p><u>EW32 Transaction:</u></p>	<p>On 4/28/2020, the County is notified that a Medi-Cal beneficiary was incarcerated on 4/01/2020, and submits an EW32 transaction to report incarceration that began on 4/01/2020.</p> <p>On 7/01/2021, the County receives a report that the individual was released from incarceration on 6/10/2021 and submits an EW32 transaction to report a Release Date of 6/10/2021, resulting in closed period incarceration of 4/01/2020 to 6/10/2021.</p> <p>On 7/02/2021, the County receives a correction from the originally reported Release Date of 6/10/2021 to 6/10/2020, and submits an EW32 transaction to <u>correct</u> the Release Date to 6/10/2020 instead of the original report of 6/10/2021:</p> <p><u>EW32 Transaction:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Transaction contains the original Incarceration Date of 4/01/2020. 2. Transaction contains the original Release Date of 6/10/2021. 3. Transaction contains the corrected Release Date of 6/10/2020. <p>For June 2020:</p>

EXAMPLE	CURRENT PROCESS - Suspension	NEW PROCESS – Incarceration and Release
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Transaction contains the original Suspension Start Date of 4/28/2018. 2. Transaction contains the original Release Date (Policy Stop Date) of 6/09/2019. 3. Transaction contains the corrected Release Date of 6/10/2018. <p>7/02/19: MEDS returns error message: 081 RETRO PERIOD LIMITED TO EIGHTH PRIOR MONTH</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. MEDS updates the Restriction Code to indicate partial month incarceration. 2. MEDS updates the Eligibility Status Code to indicate partial month eligibility. 3. MEDS updates the INQU screen: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Updates the Release Date for the “CLOSED” incarceration period of 4/01/2020 to 6/10/2021 to 4/01/2020 to 6/10/2020. <p>For July 2020 ongoing:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. MEDS removes the Restriction Code indicating incarceration. 2. MEDS updates the Eligibility Status Code to indicate full month eligibility.
<p>3 (Corrections needed for both Incarceration and Release Dates): A Medi-Cal beneficiary is incarcerated and the County suspends Medi-Cal eligibility accordingly. County receives report that the incarcerated Medi-Cal beneficiary has been released and updates MEDS accordingly.</p> <p>Subsequently the County is notified that both the incarceration and release</p>	<p>Existing record reflects a Policy Start Date of 1/15/2019 and a Policy Stop Date of 11/21/2019. MEDS displays a closed period suspension of 1/15/2019 to 11/21/2019.</p> <p>On 2/03/2020, the County is notified of a needed <u>correction</u> to the Incarceration Date to 1/17/2019 and the Release Date to 11/19/2019.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2/03/2020: The County submits a transaction to <u>correct</u> both the Suspension Start Date to 	<p>Existing record reflects an Incarceration Date of 4/15/2020 and a Release Date of 6/22/2020. MEDS displays a closed period Incarceration of 4/15/2020 to 6/22/2020.</p> <p>On 8/03/2020, the County is notified of a needed <u>correction</u> to the Incarceration Date to 4/17/2020 and the Release Date to 6/19/2020.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8/03/2020: The County submits a transaction to <u>correct</u> both Incarceration Date to 4/17/2020 and the Release Date to 6/19/2020. <p><u>EW32 Transaction:</u></p>

EXAMPLE	CURRENT PROCESS - Suspension	NEW PROCESS – Incarceration and Release
<p>dates are incorrect and need to be corrected.</p>	<p>1/17/2019 and the Release Date to 11/19/2019.</p> <p><u>EW32 Transaction:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Transaction contains the original Suspension Start Date of 1/15/2019. 2. Transaction contains the original Suspension Release Date (Policy Stop Date) of 11/21/2019. 3. Transaction contains the Corrected Start Date of 1/17/2019. 4. Transaction contains the Corrected Suspension Release Date of 11/19/2019. <p>2/03/2020: MEDS returns error message: 077 DATE CONFLICTS WITH EXISITNG INCARCERATION.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Transaction contains the original Incarceration Date of 4/15/2020. 2. Transaction contains the original Release Date of 6/22/2020. 3. Transaction contains the corrected Incarceration Date of 4/17/2020. 4. Transaction contains the corrected Release Date of 6/19/2020. <p>For April 2020:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. MEDS updates the INQU screen: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Updates the Incarceration Date from 4/15/2020 to 4/17/2020. <p>For June 2020:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. MEDS updates the INQU screen: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> b. Updates the Release Date from 6/22/2020 to 6/19/2020.

Incarceration and Suspension Questions and Answers

1. The County needs to correct an incarceration date that is over 12 months in the past. How does the County complete this process?

Answer: The EW32 transaction now allows for reporting of incarceration information that is further back than 12 months so that the case can be handled appropriately based on an incarceration more than 12 months prior to the current MEDS month. Refer to the MEDS manual for the EW32 transaction instructions.

2. On 9/01/2020, the County reported an Incarceration Date of 8/31/2020 on the EW32 transaction for a Medi-Cal beneficiary. Why does the INCARCERATION AND SUSPENSION INFORMATION (INQU) screen display the Suspend Date as 9/01/2020, and the Restriction Code and Eligibility Status Code indicate partial month of incarceration in August 2020?

Answer: The Suspend Date field in the INQU screen displays the Suspension Start Date, which is derived from the date the EW32 transaction was processed. The MEDS eligibility screens update the Eligibility Status Codes and Restriction Codes based upon the first full day and last full day of incarceration. Please refer to Attachment A of this MEDIL for the complete definition of full month vs. partial month incarceration periods, Suspend Date and Suspend End Date.

3. The County attempted to correct an Incarceration Date, but an error is being displayed on the screen. Where can I find information to resolve the issue?

Answer: Refer to the MEDS Manual Online Messages documentation to review the message detail including recommended actions to take to resolve the error. If the error cannot be resolved, please submit a Remedy ticket with screenshots for review.

4. The County entered a closed incarceration period on the EW32 transaction. Why didn't the system auto-populate a Suspend Date?

Answer: A closed incarceration period implies the dates are in the past, therefore, suspension of Medi-Cal benefits does not apply. Refer to All County Welfare Directors Letters (ACWDLs) 14-26 and 14-26E for current suspension policy. In addition, refer to Attachment A of this MEDIL for the complete definition of Suspend Date and Suspend End Date. Any changes in policy regarding incarceration and suspension will continue to be provided through ACWDLs.

5. There is an outstanding Remedy ticket for an OHC "I" indicator that could not be removed from a record manually in MEDS. Will these new MEDS enhancements resolve the remedy issue?

Answer: The new MEDS enhancement will resolve the issue of not being able to submit dates older than 8 months. In addition, after the existing incarceration records are converted to display the new information (Restriction Code & Eligibility Status Code rather than OHC "I"), the DHCS MEDS Process Unit will review the open incarceration Remedy tickets to analyze those records where the conversion was not successful and resolve.

Medi-Cal Inmate Eligibility Program (MCIEP) Questions and Answers

6. The INQE MEDS screen continues to display the MCIEP IN/OUT days.

Answer: The MCIEP IN/OUT days is scheduled to be removed after implementation of the new functionality.

7. The County determined MCIEP eligibility is effective on 9/1/2020; however, MEDS is not displaying this information on the INMATE PROGRAM AID CODES INQUIRY (INQV) MEDS screen.

Answer: The INQV screen displays partial month MCIEP eligibility only. Verify the Eligibility Status Code for September 2020 month located on the INMATE segment in INQ1, INQ2, or INQ3 to verify full month eligibility for MCIEP.

8. The County reported the Release Date on the EW32 transaction for a Medi-Cal beneficiary enrolled in M1 and County MCIEP N7 aid code. MEDS populated the Suspend End Date properly, but why aren't the Medi-Cal benefits restored?

Answer: Per ACWDL 17-29, MCIEP coverage takes precedence over any other aid codes in MEDS. The County should follow current processes for terminating the County MCIEP aid codes.

9. Will the MCIEP aid code be terminated in MEDS when the EW15 and EW32 are submitted?

Answer: No. To terminate the MCIEP, the EW40 is still required.

Immediate Need Questions and Answers

10. Will the Medi-Cal suspension end when the EW15 is submitted?

Answer: No. The EW32 must be submitted on the same day to add the Release Date. MEDS will add the Suspend End Date and update the Eligibility Status and Restriction Codes.

11. The County reported a Release Date on the EW32 transaction to restore the beneficiary's suspended Medi-Cal benefits. Why doesn't the transaction update immediately?

Answer: The EW32 transaction will process in the overnight batch. When the EW32 is submitted, the eligibility will be active the following business day and will be effective the date of the release. If immediate need for services is needed, the County shall follow the Immediate Need process and submit the EW15 transaction on the same day. The County will need to complete the EW20 transaction to prevent renewal from discontinuing eligibility for the following month.

12. Should the County enter information (e.g. "000") in the Restriction field of the EW15 transaction on MEDS?

Answer: No, the Restriction Code field should be left blank when submitting the EW15 transaction. MEDS will update the Restriction Code(s) as appropriate based on the incarceration status. Note: If a Restriction Code prior to the incarceration is displayed on the record, use existing processing to remove or update.

13. Does the County enter an Eligibility Status Action Code (ESAC) on the EW15 transaction?

Answer: Yes, the ESAC field should not be left blank. For applicable ESAC codes, please refer to the EW15 MEDS User Manual for details.

Pre-Release Questions and Answers

14. What should the County do if eligibility is established for the month of release and then the release date changes to a later month? Assume it is too late to correct the eligibility already established for the original month of release.

Answer: The County must follow current Medi-Cal suspension rules. Current Medi-Cal rules require that counties suspend the Medi-Cal benefits of a Medi-Cal beneficiary when the County is made aware that a beneficiary is an inmate of a public institution. Therefore, the County must report the Incarceration Date through the EW32 transaction to suspend the benefits and then report the Release Date to restore benefits, if still eligible. Refer to ACWDLs 14-24, 14-24E, 14-26, and 14-26E. Any changes in policy regarding

incarceration, suspension or eligibility to the MCIEP will continue to be provided through ACWDLs.

15. A Pre-Release application was completed and the individual was determined eligible for a SSA-controlled aid code for the month of release. However, the EW32 transaction is rejecting the County's attempt to report the Release Date to end the suspension and restore benefits.

Answer: The County should submit a Remedy ticket for any situation in which the County cannot update the MEDS record.

EW32 Transaction Correction Question and Answer

16. When a correction to the incarceration period is completed in MEDS, will the beneficiary have fee-for-service Medi-Cal for the corrected months the beneficiary was not actually incarcerated?

Answer: The Health Care Plan (HCP) status will function as it currently does. If the beneficiary has already been dis-enrolled from the HCP, the Medi-Cal will remain as Fee-For-Service (FFS) for those months. If the beneficiary has not been dis-enrolled from the health plan and still has HCP Status as on hold, the beneficiary will be re-enrolled in the health care plan. Any future updates will be notified through a Change Cycle Letter.