

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES

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August 25, 1988

TO: All County Welfare Directors
All County Administrative Officer

Letter No.: 88- 64

SUBJECT: MEDS DATA ACCESS POLICY

REFERENCE: ACWD Letters 88-24, 85-48 and Medi-Cal Eligibility Manual
Procedures Section 14D

This is to remind county welfare departments of the necessity to follow the Department of Health Services' Medi-Cal Eligibility Data System (MEDS Network) access policy.

The Department's Medi-Cal eligibility data access policy has been established in accordance with federal and state laws regarding confidentiality. Based on this policy, on-line MEDS terminal access with inquiry and/or update capabilities is available only to county welfare departments (CWDs) and their outstationed CWD staff. We would refer you to federal and state statutes and regulations as follows:

- o 42 United States Code Annotated, section 1396a (a) (7);
- o 42 Code of Federal Regulations, section 431.301 et seq.;
- o Welfare and Institutions Code, sections 10850 and 14100.2; and
- o 22 California Code of Regulations, formerly the California Administrative Code, sections 50111, 51009, and 51477.

We understand that MEDS terminals are often located in county buildings near non-county welfare department staff and that these staff sometimes access MEDS in order to provide Medi-Cal eligibility billing information to various county, city and private health providers. To quote Medi-Cal Eligibility Manual Section 14-D titled "Verification of Medi-Cal Eligibility":

"...only county welfare departments and their outstationed staff may have access to Medi-Cal Eligibility Data System (MEDS) terminals for inquiry and update of eligibility information".

County welfare departments should monitor their county's compliance with Medi-Cal eligibility data access policy and make sure the non-county welfare department offices/staff do not have access to the MEDS Network. Additionally, our Corrective Action Unit staff will be reviewing each county's procedures for disseminating eligibility information to providers.

Please note that our current policy allows providers to contact CWDs for eligibility information necessary to bill the Medi-Cal program. Information regarding this policy is in page 14D-1 of the Medi-Cal Eligibility Manual and in All County Welfare Director's Letters 85-48 and 88-24.

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If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact your state
MEDS liaison.

Sincerely,

Original signed by

Frank S. Martucci, Chief
Medi-Cal Eligibility Branch

cc: Medi-Cal Liaisons
Medi-Cal Program Consultants

Expiration Date: August 22, 1989