

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES

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TO: All County Welfare Directors
All County Administrative Officers

December 20, 1990
Letter No: 90-105

SUBJECT: MEDI-CAL AND THE ADOPTION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

REFERENCE: All County Welfare Directors Letters 86-9, 86-68, 86-75, 89-44

The purpose of this letter is to provide answers to questions which counties often ask about children receiving Medi-Cal under the Adoption Assistance program (AAP) and the State-only Aid to Adoption of Children (AAC) program. These programs are for adopted children with special needs. The child's medical needs are covered to the extent allowable by the Medi-Cal program. The AAP/AAC cash grant amount is based on and issued primarily to defray nonmedical costs such as food, clothing and shelter for the child. The income and resources of the adoptive parent(s) are considered when computing the cash grant amount.

Although the AAP and AAC cash grants are administered by the Department of Social Services (DSS), children who are eligible for those programs receive automatic no share-of-cost Medi-Cal from the Department of Health Services (DHS).

Scenario #1

A child is eligible for federal AAP but the parents have waived the cash grant.

Question #1 Is the child eligible for Medi-Cal?

Answer #1 Yes, the child may receive no share-of-cost Medi-Cal under aid code 03 whether or not he/she receives a cash grant.

Scenario #2

A child is receiving Medi-Cal under aid code 03 with no cash grant award. His adoptive father is incapacitated and is applying for Medi-Cal for himself and his wife.

Question #2 What is the Medi-Cal Family Budget Unit (MFBU) for the family?

Answer #2 Pending regulation amendments define AAP recipients with a cash grant as Public Assistance (PA) recipients. Those receiving AAP without a cash grant are defined as Other PA recipients. Since PA and Other PA recipients are not in the MFBU with the other family members, the MFBU would consist of the father and his wife.

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Scenario #3

A child does not meet the federal (Title IV-E) AAP requirements but receives no share-of-cost Medi-Cal under aid code 04 (State-only AAP program).

Question #3 What is the MFBU composition if other family members are eligible for Medi-Cal?

Answer #3 Pending regulation amendments define State-only AAP or Aid for Adoption of Children (AAC) recipients as Medically Indigent; therefore, the child would be an ineligible member of the MFBU which contains the other family members.

Scenario #4

A single woman adopts a child who is eligible for Medi-Cal under the federal AAP program.

Question #4 If the woman requests Medi-Cal for herself, is she linked to the AFDC-MN program as the parent of a child deprived of parental support or care due to absence?

Answer #4 Yes.

Scenario #5

Four unrelated children live with a couple and the couple's other adoptive children in the home. The couple is applying for Medi-Cal for these four children. The children have not been legally adopted by this couple at this time and are not eligible for AAP.

Question #5 What is the MFBU composition?

Answer #5 Since the children are not related to anyone in the household or to each other nor legally adopted, each is in his/her own MFBU.

If you have any questions, please contact Marge Buzdas at (916) 324-4972.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY

Frank S. Martucci, Chief
Medi-Cal Eligibility Branch

cc: Medi-Cal Liaisons
Medi-Cal Program Consultants