TO:  All County Welfare Directors
     All County Administrative Officers

March 13, 1990
Letter No.: 90-27

SUBJECT: EXPANSION OF PRIMARY LANGUAGE AND ETHNIC CODES ON THE MEDI-CAL
ELIGIBILITY DATA SYSTEM (MEDS) NETWORK

In September 1989, Assembly Bill No. 814 was signed by the Governor. This
bill requires that all state agencies and state-funded programs use uniform
collection categories for the major Asian and Pacific Islander ethnic
groups. In May 1989, the Department of Social Services (DSS) issued All
County Information Notice No. 1-29-89 to counties requesting information on
ethnic origin and primary languages of recipients in each county. The
Department of Social Services uses both the ethnic origin and primary
language data for Affirmative Action programs and statistical services. The
new ethnic and language codes that DSS needs for their reporting purposes
are not being collected on the MEDS Network. Counties that rely on MEDS for
the data requested by DSS are not able to provide the requested information.

The Medi-Cal Eligibility Branch worked with DSS to determine what new codes
should be added to these fields. The list of proposed ethnic and language
codes were presented and approved by the County MEDS Advisory Group (CMAC) -
North and South. Due to the number of additions, in both fields, we will be
changing them from 1 digit numeric to 1 digit alphanumeric. These changes
are scheduled to be in place by May 1990 Month of Eligibility (MOE).
Enclosures 1 & 2 contain the new language and ethnic codes. Currently both
our Department and DSS are reviewing and updating all forms used to collect
ethnic and primary language information.

We are requesting that the beneficiary's ethnic origin and primary language
designation be reviewed at redetermination or re-application, whichever
comes first. If possible, we would like counties to begin sending the new
codes during the May 1990 MOE. Please note that the beneficiary is not
required to provide this information as a condition of eligibility. If
he/she declines to provide this information the eligibility worker should
use his/her own judgment in providing this data.
Using the enclosed charts please ensure that the MEDS Network is updated (either online or through you own county's batch system) with the correct information.

If you have any questions or your county system cannot be changed prior to this date, please contact Frances Schurer, of my staff at (916) 322-3463 and let her know when your county will have system changes in place.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY

Frank S. Martucci, Chief
Medi-Cal Eligibility Branch

Enclosures

cc: Medi-Cal Liaisons
    Medi-Cal Program Consultants

Expiration Date: March 13, 1991
## LANGUAGE CODES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Language Description</th>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Language Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>American Sign Language (ASL)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Spanish</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Cantonese</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Japanese</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Korean</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Tagalog</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Other non-English</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>English</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>No valid data reported</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>Not a valid value</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>Other Sign Language</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>Mandarin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G</td>
<td>Other Chinese Languages</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>Cambodian</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E</td>
<td>Armenian</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>Ilocano</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G</td>
<td>Mien</td>
<td>H</td>
<td>Hmong</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I</td>
<td>Lao</td>
<td>J</td>
<td>Turkish</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K</td>
<td>Hebrew</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>French</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M</td>
<td>Polish</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>Russian</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>O</td>
<td>Not a valid value</td>
<td>P</td>
<td>Portuguese</td>
</tr>
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<td>Q</td>
<td>Italian</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>Arabic</td>
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<tr>
<td>S</td>
<td>Samoan</td>
<td>T</td>
<td>Thai</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U</td>
<td>Farsi</td>
<td>V</td>
<td>Vietnamese</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

W-Z - Reserved for future use

**Note: Italic print indicates the necessary changes.**
ETHNIC CODES

1 - White
2 - Hispanic

3 - Black
4 - Other Asian or Pacific Islander

5 - Alaskan Native or American Indian
6 - Not a valid value

7 - Filipino
8 - No Valid Data Reported (MEDS generated)

C - Chinese
H - Cambodian

J - Japanese
K - Korean

M - Samoan
N - Asian Indian

P - Hawaiian
R - Guamanian

T - Laotian
V - Vietnamese

**Note: Italic print indicates the necessary changes.**