STATE OF CALIFORNIA—HEALTH AND WELFARE AGENCY

GEORGE DEUKMEJIAN, Governor

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June 7, 1990

Letter No.: 90-53

TO: All County Welfare Directors
All County Administrative Officers

SUBJECT: IMPLEMENTATION OF EDWARDS V. KIZER - DATA PROCESSING CHANGES

REFERENCE: ACWDL 90-06

This letter is to provide the counties with the information necessary to fully implement the terms of the Judgment Pursuant to Stipulation in the Edwards v. Kizer lawsuit. The terms of the Judgment for the Edwards lawsuit were discussed in All County Welfare Directors Letter (ACWDL) 90-06. Implementation of the Judgment must be completed by July 1990 Month of Eligibility (MOE).

COUNTY PROGRAMMING REQUIREMENTS

Beginning at Renewal in June for July 1990 MOE, the State Medi-Cal Eligibility Data System (MEDS) will automatically establish Edwards eligibility (aid code 38) for any individual who is in hold as, or terminated from, AFDC cash-based Medi-Cal unless the termination reason reported to MEDS is one that would preclude Edwards eligibility. There are eight specific termination reasons, listed in this letter, that will either terminate Edwards eligibility or prevent the establishment of Edwards eligibility when AFDC cash-based Medi-Cal eligibility is terminated.

Although the terms of the Judgment require that DHS automatically establish Edwards eligibility, MEDS will continue to accept Edwards eligibility reported on county-generated transactions.

AID CODES

The aid codes which, if terminated or in hold at MEDS renewal, potentially render a beneficiary eligible for Aid Code 38 are:

30 - AFDC - FG

32 - State-only AFDC-FG

33 - State-only AFDC-U

35 - AFDC-U

40 - State AFDC-Foster Care

42 - Federal AFDC-Foster Care

39 - 6 month continuing

54 - 4 month continuing

59 - 6 additional months continuing

We understand that many counties use generic termination reasons for AFDC discontinuances. In order to prevent inappropriate Edwards card issuance on an AFDC termination or to discontinue current Edwards eligibility on a MEDS record, it will be necessary for counties to program their data systems with specific termination reasons to be used with their AFDC/Edwards discontinuance transactions. Four of these termination reasons are already defined to MEDS as AFDC/Medi-Cal discontinuance reasons. These are:

Code	Reason
01	Death
44	Resident of a Public Institution
48	Loss of Residence
98	Whereabouts Unknown

It was necessary to define four new termination reasons in order to meet the requirements of the Judgment. These termination reasons are:

Code	Reason
03	Discontinued at Recipient Request (Medi-Cal and AFDC or Medi-Cal only)
04	Failure to Cooperate (Medi-Cal only)
20	Terminated from Medi-Cal (concurrent with or subsequent to AFDC discontinuance) because only basis for continued eligibility is allegation of disability.

38 Determined ineligible for Medi-Cal Only (concurrent with or subsequent to AFDC Discontinuance)

MEDS PROCESSING

Currently, all records in Aid Code 38 for two consecutive months are placed in hold for two months after the second month of Aid Code 38, then terminated retroactively back to the second month of Aid Code 38. Beginning July 1990 MOE, MEDS will automatically place all AFDC cash-based Medi-Cal records which are in hold, or being terminated with termination reasons other than 01, 03, 04, 20, 38, 44, 48, and 98, into ongoing Aid Code 38 after each month's renewal. MEDS will no longer automatically place a hold on Aid Code 38 after two months. Aid Code 38 will continue until terminated by the county via a transaction with the appropriate termination reason.

In discussing implementation of the Judgment, County staff have expressed concerns about MEDS automatically mailing an Edwards card for a foster care child since the foster child often loses Medi-Cal eligibility because he/she has left the foster care home and is no longer in placement. As the last known address on MEDS for the foster care child would be the foster home address, the foster child's Edwards Medi-Cal card would go to an incorrect address. In response to this concern, MEDS will automatically place an address flag of three (3) on foster care aid codes 40 and 42 which are being converted to Edwards eligibles. This state-generated address flag will suppress issuance of what would be an undeliverable Medi-Cal card until the county submits a transaction which either reports a new address, reports an address flag of zero (0) or reestablishes county-controlled eligibility.

COUNTY REPORTING TO MEDS

Many counties have expressed concern that, because an automatic Aid Code 38 may be generated without the counties' knowledge, MEDS transactions from the counties will fail due to aid code conflicts. This problem will be addressed by a change in MEDS edits for the EW20 (add new recipient record) and EW30 and EW40 (modify recipient record(s)) transactions. Under certain circumstances, these edit changes will allow transactions containing a new aid code/County ID or the pre-EDWARDS aid code/County ID to modify a current "38" record.

The EW25 and EW35 transactions (modify whole case) do not need to be modified for Edwards as these transactions currently ignore the aid code field.

EW20 Transaction:

Currently, when a county submits an EW20 transaction with a non-Interprogram Transfer (IPT) Eligibility Status Action Code (ESAC) and the recipient is already active on MEDS for any month covered by the transaction, that transaction rejects. MEDS logic will be revised to bypass that edit when the MEDS aid code is 38. All other EW20 edits will remain in place; i.e., the transaction county code must match MEDS and the eligibility reported on the transaction must be full scope Medi-Cal with no share of cost. As presently occurs, if a restricted services/limited scope/share of cost/CMSP aid code is used or another county, other than the county of responsibility, tries to modify the current month's Edwards eligibility, the transaction will reject.

EW30 Transaction:

Currently, when a county submits an EW30 transaction to modify eligibility information for a recipient currently active on MEDS, the County ID submitted in the transaction's header must match either the current or future County ID on MEDS, depending on the transaction effective date. For Edwards processing, MEDS edits will make an exception to this requirement. The new MEDS edits will check to see if the header County ID matches the County ID on MEDS. If the aid code portion (only) of the County ID doesn't match MEDS and the MEDS record is an Aid Code 38, MEDS will check the transaction aid code versus the pre-Edwards aid code. If the aid codes match, the transaction will be accepted. Subject to existing edits, if a county submits a transaction to release a hold, MEDS will reestablish eligibility and overlay the Edwards aid code with the pre-Edwards aid code. If a county reports an aid code change to a full-scope, no-share-of-cost, non-CMSP aid code in the new aid code field, the new aid code will overlay the Edwards aid code, subject to existing edits.

ALERTS

Alerts informing counties that a beneficiary has been on Aid Code 38 for two or more months will be issued after the second month, and every month thereafter, and will be directed to the Edwards workers/coordinators. Several counties have asked if an Edwards message could be directed to the county at the time Edwards eligibility is initially established. We are looking into setting up that message as an optional message.

RECONCILIATION

Any record submitted on a county reconciliation file that contains the Edwards aid code (38) will be ignored by the reconciliation process. Also, this aid code will be bypassed in the process that creates the MEDS

reconciliation extract file. No other changes to the reconciliation process are planned at this time.

Questions regarding the MEDS changes should be directed to your State MEDS liaison.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY

Frank S. Martucci, Chief
Medi-Cal Eligibility Branch

cc: Medi-Cal Liaisons
Medi-Cal Program Consultants