

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES

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April 6, 1994

TO: All County Welfare Directors
All County Administrative Officers
All County Medi-Cal Program Specialists/Liaisons

Letter No.: 94-39

PREGNANCY VERIFICATION

Ref.: This All County Welfare Directors Letter (ACWDL) supersedes ACWDL No. 93-80 and E-Mail No. 93202

The purpose of this letter is to clarify California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Section 50167 (a)(8) and the Department's policy regarding pregnancy verification. The Medi-Cal Eligibility Branch staff has met several times with Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) staff to develop pregnancy verification requirements that, as much as possible, are consistent with both programs. AFDC is in the process of changing their regulations to include certified nurse midwives and nurse practitioners as authorized medical personnel who can provide pregnancy verification. This change creates comparable pregnancy verification policies for both Departments. Acceptable pregnancy verification is:

"A written statement from a physician, physician's assistant, certified nurse midwife, nurse practitioner, or by designated medical or clinic personnel with access to the patient's medical record that provides information sufficient to substantiate the diagnosis and the estimated date of confinement (EDC)."

Previously an EDC was not required as part of pregnancy verification for Medi-Cal only applicants. However, an EDC is required because eligibility is based on pregnancy therefore counties need to know when eligibility is no longer based on pregnancy. Counties may implement this policy immediately, and must implement no later than June 1, 1994.

There are other reasons an EDC is needed. Counties need to know when to place a pregnant woman into Continuing Eligibility by noting on the MC 177 that the share of cost (SOC) was met at least once during pregnancy. With the implementation of the Beneficiary Identification Card, the MC 177 will be eliminated. In order for counties to know when a SOC pregnant woman can transfer into Continuing Eligibility, it must be known she has met her SOC at least once. The EDC can be an alert to counties to check the status of the SOC. An EDC can also facilitate counties' ability to establish Deemed Eligibility for newborns by serving as a flag to remind counties to contact the mother by the end of the following month if she hasn't reported the birth by the end of the expected birth month. Therefore, we will require an EDC on the pregnancy verification.

In addition, a signature stamp, a photo copy or a carbon copy is acceptable as long as it is initialed or counter signed by the designated medical or clinic personnel providing the verification. However, the carbon copy signature that appears on the Pregnancy Verification portion of the Presumptive Eligibility "Application for Medi-Cal Program Only" (PreMed2) does not need to be initialed. This policy may also be implemented immediately, but must be implemented no later than June 1, 1994.

All County Welfare Directors
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Page 2

We hope that this ACWDL provides needed clarification regarding pregnancy verification. If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Deborah Wender at (916) 657-1064.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY

FRANK S. MARTUCCI, Chief
Medi-Cal Eligibility Branch