

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES

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July 11, 1994

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

Letter No.: 94-60

IMPLEMENTATION OF AID CODES 4F AND 5F FOR UNDOCUMENTED PREGNANT WOMEN

The purpose of this letter is to inform counties to immediately begin steps to implement two new aid codes 4F and 5F for undocumented pregnant women. These aid codes must be implemented by September 1, 1994. Although the impetus to examine the need for new aid codes began with the Governor's proposal to eliminate pregnancy-related services for undocumented pregnant women, we have determined that aid code 5F is needed regardless of any legislation for fiscal, statistical, and administrative ease to ensure that county eligibility workers will handle pregnant women appropriately, e.g., Continued Eligibility, Asset Waiver.

Legislation may eliminate pregnancy-related services to undocumented pregnant women because the costs are not currently matched by federal funds. If legislation passes, the effective date may be as early as August. It is anticipated that those undocumented women who were pregnant and receiving Medi-Cal prior to the effective date will continue to receive pregnancy-related benefits due to a "grandfather" clause.

BACKGROUND

Currently, all persons requesting restricted benefits with or without a share of cost are given an aid code of 58. Those women whose income is above the limit for the Income Disregard Program (formerly the 185 Percent Program) or who have zero share of cost Medi-Cal receive benefits under aid code 58. They receive pregnancy-related benefits including family planning, labor, and delivery. They receive zero share of cost 60-day postpartum benefits under aid code 76.

Pregnant women who have a share of cost and also meet the income requirements for the Income Disregard Program (aid code 48) have two aid codes: (1) Aid code 58 for emergency services with a share of cost and (2) Aid code 48 for pregnancy-related including family planning, labor, delivery, and postpartum services with zero share of cost. Aid code 58 is the primary aid code and aid code 48 is a special aid code.

IMPLEMENTATION OF 5F

Once aid code 5F is implemented, all new intake cases with undocumented pregnant women who otherwise would have been in aid code 58 are to be placed in aid code 5F. Counties will not have to search the aid code 58 cases to move current aid code 58 pregnant women into 5F. However, when the county handles an aid code 58 case with a pregnant woman, the county must move her into 5F.

Aid code 5F will be a primary aid code and have all the same benefits, edits, and alerts as aid code 58. The separation of pregnant women from all other persons in aid code 58 will help counties with Continued Eligibility issues and allow better fiscal and statistical projections.

Should legislation pass, pregnant women in 5F (or who should have been moved into 5F at the time the legislation passes) will be covered by the grandfather provision. Those in aid code 5F will continue to receive pregnancy related benefits. The benefits for aid code 58 will be reduced to emergency services only including labor and delivery. Counties then will be instructed to place new intake pregnant women who are only entitled to reduced benefits in aid code 58. Thus, all pregnant women who are entitled to pregnancy-related and emergency services will be in aid code 5F while those not entitled to pregnancy-related benefits will be in aid code 58. At a later date, 5F will be eliminated.

MAILER

If legislation passes, we plan to send a mailer (one mailer per family) to all women of child bearing age in aid code 58 informing them of the reduction in benefits and instructing them to report their pregnancy to their county eligibility worker. A verification form will be enclosed. This should help counties identify those pregnant women who are entitled to pregnancy-related benefits under the "grandfathered" provision so they can be moved to aid code 5F prior to the reduction in benefits for those in aid code 58.

IMPLEMENTATION OF AID CODE 4F

This aid code will not be used unless legislation passes. If legislation does not pass, pregnant women will remain in aid code 48 and benefits will remain intact.

If legislation passes, counties will be notified when they must begin placing newly pregnant women into 4F. Aid code 4F will be a special program on MEDS and will have the same edits and alerts as aid code 48. The only difference between the two will be that women in 4F will receive only zero share of cost Medi-Cal for labor and delivery. Those women who were pregnant and receiving Medi-Cal prior to the effective date of the legislation will remain in aid code 48 throughout their 60-day postpartum period.

We plan to instruct Data Systems Branch to provide counties with a list of those persons in aid code 48 who were not on Medi-Cal prior to the effective date of the legislation. This will help counties identify any persons that should have been moved to 4F.

EXAMPLES OF CHANGES

- A. Pregnant Women Now, and if Legislation Passes, "Grandfathered" Pregnant Women.
1. Jane is an undocumented woman and has been pregnant and on Medi-Cal since May 1994. She is linked to the Medi-Cal program as an unemployed parent. She has no share of cost and is currently receiving Medi-Cal under aid code 58. The county is handling her case at the time aid code 5F is implemented. She will be moved to aid code 5F regardless of whether there is any legislation concerning pregnancy-related benefits and will continue receiving the same pregnancy-related and emergency benefits including 60-day postpartum benefits. She will move back to aid code 58 after her postpartum period ends. If legislation passes, benefits under aid code 5F will still include pregnancy-related services and Jane is "grandfathered" in.
 2. Mary is an undocumented woman and has been pregnant since June 1994. Her only linkage to Medi-Cal is as a pregnant women. She currently receives Medi-Cal with a share

of cost in aid code 58 for her emergency services and also receives zero share of cost pregnancy-related, labor and delivery, and postpartum services under aid code 48 (Income Disregard Program). There is no need to move her from aid code 58 to aid code 5F because she already is separately identified as a pregnant woman under aid code 48. Thus, she receives zero share of cost pregnancy-related benefits under aid code 48 and share of cost nonpregnancy emergency services under aid code 58. If legislation passes, aid code 48 will still include pregnancy-related services and Mary will be "grandfathered" in.

3. Alice is an undocumented woman and has been pregnant and on Medi-Cal since April 1994. She is linked to Medi-Cal as a disabled person. She is currently receiving share of cost Medi-Cal in aid code 58. She is not eligible for the Income Disregard Program (Aid Code 48) because she has too much family income. The county is handling her case (assume 5F is implemented) and will move her into aid code 5F regardless of any legislation concerning pregnancy-related services. After delivery she will receive her 60-day postpartum coverage at no share of cost under the special aid code of 76. At the same time, the eligibility worker will move her back into aid code 58 for her share of cost emergency services only. If legislation passes, Alice is "grandfathered" in because she is in aid code 5F or aid code 76.

B. Women Pregnant After the Effective Date of Legislation

1. Nancy is a undocumented women who is linked to Medi-Cal because her child is deprived because of an absent father. She is receiving zero share of cost emergency benefits under aid code 58. She becomes pregnant in October 1994 (after the effective date of the legislation). She will remain in aid code 58 since benefits for that aid code will be reduced to emergency services including labor and delivery.
2. Teresa is a undocumented women who is applying for Medi-Cal in November 1994 as a pregnant woman after legislation has passed. She has not received Medi-Cal previously and her pregnancy has been verified as beginning in October 1994. Since she does not meet the criteria for the "grandfathered" provision, the county will determine her eligibility for aid code 58. If she has a share of cost, the county will also determine eligibility for the Income Disregard Program (aid code 4F). She will receive only emergency services including labor and delivery.

Final Implementation

Drafts of the mailer, Provider Bulletin, regulation changes, the exact date of the availability of these new aid codes, lists, and case count information will be sent to counties at a later date.

If you have any further questions, please contact Ms. Margie Buzdas of my staff at (916) 657-0726.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY

Frank S. Martucci, Chief
Medi-Cal Eligibility Branch