OF CALIFORNIA—HEALTH AND WELFARE AGENCY

PETE WILSON, Governor

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES
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May 15, 1995

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

Letter No.: 95-32

INDIVIDUALS 21 TO 22 YEARS OF AGE IN AN INSTITUTION FOR MENTAL DISEASES (IMD)

Ref.: Article 6, Medi-Cal Eligibility Procedures Manual

The purpose of this letter is to clarify the Medi-Cal eligibility and aid code assignment of individuals who enter an IMD prior to their 21st birthday and are receiving inpatient psychiatric services.

Under Section 1905(a) of the Social Security Act federal financial participation (FFP) is not available to individuals between the ages of 21-65 unless the individual has been receiving inpatient psychiatric services prior to his/her 21st birthday and receives such services continuously until the age of 22. Section 50273, Title 22, Code of California Regulations, has always allowed this IMD exception, but the eligibility criteria and aid code assignment have never been clarified.

As of July 1995 month of eligibility, we are instructing you to allow continuous Medi-Cal eligibility to individuals institutionalized in an IMD before their 21st birthday. Counties have been using Aid Code 81 (Medically Indigent - Aid Paid Pending). We are now instructing you to use Aid Code 82 (Medically Indigent - Children Under 21) because it is an FFP category in which the Federal Government pays one-half of the cost.

For an individual under 21 who is a patient in an IMD, the aid code assigned would be appropriate for the medical condition. If the individual was assigned Aid Code 82, a normal ESAC ("1" or "6") could be used to place him/her in this aid code. When the individual reaches 21 years 1 month of age, he/she is placed on hold at Renewal and the alert message, "AGE NOT WITHIN ACCEPTABLE RANGE FOR AID CODE," is issued to the county. The county can put a qualifying individual back on Medi-Cal Eligibility Data System (MEDS) in Aid Code 82 by assigning a special ESAC of "4" or "9". The individual then remains eligible until age 22. At age 22 and 1 month, he/she will be placed on hold at Renewal and the alert message, "AGE NOT WITHIN ACCEPTABLE RANGE FOR AID CODE," is issued to the county. At this time eligibility needs to be re-determined.

Counties will be able to use Aid Code 82 with an ESAC of "4" or "9" on the following batch and on-line transactions:

EW05 Transfer County of Responsibility
EW15 Request Medi-Cal ID Card-New Eligible or Data Change
EW20 Add New Recipient
EW30 Modify Existing MEDs Record (Individual)

If there are any individuals over 21 years of age who belong in this category and are presently in Aid Code 81, please transfer them into Aid Code 82 with an ESAC of "4" or "9" for proper claiming in an FFP aid code.

If you have any questions, please contact Elena Lara of my staff at (916) 657-0712.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY

Frank S. Martucci, Chief
Medi-Cal Eligibility Branch