DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES
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December 30, 1997

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

PAYMENTS FOR CHILDREN OF VIETNAM VETERANS WHO ARE BORN WITH
SPINA BIFIDA

Ref.: Public Law 104-204

The purpose of this All County Welfare Directors Letter is to inform counties regarding
Public Law (P.L.) 104-204, dated September 26, 1996. P.L. 104-204 requires that allowances
paid under this law to children of Vietnam Veterans who are born with spina bifida be considered
exempt income and property in determining eligibility for any federal or federally assisted
program. The statute provides for monthly allowances, based on the degree of disability suffered
by the child.

The effective date of the monetary allowances will be October 1, 1997. Therefore,
beginning with the month of October, such allowances are to be treated as exempt property
beginning with the month following the month of receipt.

For share-of-cost (SOC) computations in new cases, counties will begin exempting these
spina bifida payments no later than January 1, 1998. For SOC computations in continuing cases,
commencing no later than January 1, 1998, counties will exempt these spina bifida payments as
they become aware of such payments.

Questions regarding spina bifida property exemptions should be directed to Kathy Harwell
at (916) 657-0146 or Sharyl Shanen-Raya at (916) 657-2942. Questions regarding spina bifida
income exemptions should be directed to Dave Rappolee at (916) 657-0163.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY

Frank S. Martucci, Chief
Medi-Cal Eligibility Branch