

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES

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April 16, 1999



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

Letter No.: 99-18

SECTION 1931(b) ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS LETTER (ACWDL) NO. 98-43

On September 30, 1998, the Department of Health Services (Department) issued ACWDL 98-43 in which counties were advised on the implementation of the Section 1931(b) program. Since then, counties have had questions concerning the timelines for the Aid Code 38 determinations as well as for the implementation of the Section 1931(b) program. The purpose of this letter is to advise counties that the deadlines established in ACWDL 98-43 will not be modified.

In addition to inquires from the counties, the Department has received telephone calls and written inquires from various interested individuals and groups. The responses to these inquires are summarized below:

- ACWDL 98-43, and the deadlines established thereunder, will not be modified.
- Counties should do the best they can to meet these deadlines.
- The State will fully fund the Medi-Cal costs for this caseload.
- As stated in ACWDL 98-43, the usual Edwards procedures should be followed.
- Federal law (42 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Section 435.916(c)) requires a prompt redetermination whenever the agency receives information about changes in a beneficiary's circumstances that might affect eligibility. Further, federal and state law (42 CFR Section 435.916 and Title 22, California Code of Regulations, Section 50189) require that every beneficiary must be redetermined at least every 12 months.
- If during the redetermination of any beneficiary, the county encounters a problem applying eligibility criteria for the Section 1931(b) program, that beneficiary should be kept in Aid Code 38 and the Department should be contacted for further guidance.
- Counties should continue to conduct outreach to families, and to work with health plans to encourage beneficiaries to complete and return the redetermination packages. For returned packages, counties should utilize any information at their disposal, such as Food Stamp addresses, to find a current address. Health plans may have more current addresses or other information that could be shared with the counties.

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If you have any further questions, please contact Erin Lynch of my staff at (916) 654-5769.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY
RICHARD BRANTINGHAM for
Angeline Mrva, Chief
Medi-Cal Eligibility Branch