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DIRECTOR

State of California—Health and Human Services Agency
Department of Health Care Services



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GOVERNOR

July 21, 2017

Medi-Cal Eligibility Division Information Letter No.: I 17-10

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS
ALL COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS
ALL COUNTY MEDI-CAL PROGRAM SPECIALISTS/LIAISONS
ALL COUNTY MEDS LIAISONS

SUBJECT: County Transmittal for Medi-Cal Inmate Eligibility Program
Applicants Receiving Social Security Income (References: All
County Welfare Directors Letters 11-27, 13-18, 14-26)

The purpose of this letter is to provide counties with clarification and a new process for reporting an individual's incarceration status to the Social Security Administration (SSA).

All Medi-Cal Inmate Eligibility Program (MCIEP) aid codes – including state Medical Parole and County Compassionate Release/Medical Probation Program aid codes – that previously resided in the primary segment (INQM screen) of the Medi-Cal Eligibility Data System (MEDS) were moved to the special segment (INQ1, INQ2, and INQ3 screens) effective July 1, 2016. Detailed instructions regarding this change will be provided in an upcoming All County Welfare Directors Letter.

Prior to this change, counties could not add MCIEP eligibility in MEDS with the presence of a Social Security Income (SSI) aid code in the primary segment. In order to add MCIEP eligibility, the county had to request SSA to take appropriate action on an active SSA aid code. This process took as long as four (4) to six (6) months before any action taken on the SSA aid code displayed in MEDS; as a result, delays in MCIEP coverage and claiming occurred. With the MCIEP aid codes now in the special segment, the presence of an active SSI aid code in the primary segment should not prevent the county from entering MCIEP eligibility in the special segment. However, the county must report the individual's incarceration status to SSA because inmates are not eligible for SSI. **Note:** Only SSA can suspend, discontinue, or replace SSA-controlled aid codes.

The following outlines the process for reporting a SSI recipient's incarceration status:

- The Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) shall act as a liaison between the counties and SSA to assist in notifying SSA when a Medi-Cal beneficiary becomes incarcerated and is also the recipient of SSI.
- To ensure proper and timely reporting of an individual's incarceration status, the county must complete [MC195 County Transmittal for MCIEP Applicants Receiving SSI](#)
- The county shall submit the completed form via secure email to MCIEP@dhcs.ca.gov. If the county is unable to send secure email, the county can fax the completed form to MCIEP secure fax at 916-440-5651.
- Upon receipt of the completed transmittal form, a state MCIEP analyst will contact the SSA field office and provide them with the information contained on the transmittal form.
- The SSA liaison will then contact and convey the information to the appropriate county SSA field office.
- The SSA field office will confirm the incarceration status of the SSI recipient and follow SSA protocol.

If you have any questions regarding the information in this letter, please contact Angelo Vitale at (916) 327-6705 or by email: MCIEP@dhcs.ca.gov.

Originally Signed by,

Sandra Williams, Chief
Medi-Cal Eligibility Division