



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



October 8, 2020

Medi-Cal Eligibility Division Information Letter No.: I 20-33

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

SUBJECT: Update on Aid Code Use in Diligent Search Cases

The purpose of this Medi-Cal Eligibility Informational Letter (MEDIL) is to provide updated information on the appropriate aid code(s) to assign after completion of the Diligent Search for individual(s) who are in need of coverage and whose identity is unknown.

Background

Counties must follow guidelines provided in [Title 22 California Code of Regulations, Section 50163](#) and [Medi-Cal Eligibility Procedures Manual \(MEPM\) Article 4 Section I](#) to complete the Diligent Search for necessary information to conduct an eligibility determination, and if determined eligible, assign appropriate aid codes. If an individual's identity remains unknown despite attempts by hospital staff to establish the identity of a non-responsive individual in need of coverage, the hospital will identify the individual as Jane Doe or John Doe on the Medi-Cal application submitted to counties. Counties must then document in the case record that a Diligent Search was conducted.

Aid Codes

Counties are advised to use the following aid codes for unknown individuals, based on their presumed age:

- Under age 21:
 - If the individual's age is unknown, but appears to be under age 21, counties are reminded to use **Aid Code 82**: Medically Indigent Child Full - Scope No SOC as described in MEPM Article 4, Section I.
- Over age 21:
 - If the individual is in a skilled nursing facility, counties are to use **Aid Code 53** for State-only Long Term Care.

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- If the individual's age is unknown, but appears to be over age 21, counties are advised to use **Aid Code 38** if the individual is otherwise eligible.

Please note that these aid codes would only be used for the period pending identification of the individual. If an individual regains consciousness, or is otherwise identified after the eligibility determination has been completed, the county must update the case record and redetermine eligibility.

If you have any questions, or if we can provide further information, please contact Alison Brown by phone at (916) 345-8078 or by email at Alison.Brown@dhcs.ca.gov.

Original Signed by

Sandra Williams, Chief
Medi-Cal Eligibility Division