

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



California
Department of
Health Services



ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER
Governor

March 16, 2004

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS Letter No.: 03-31 F
ALL COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS
ALL COUNTY MEDI-CAL PROGRAM SPECIALISTS/LIAISONS
ALL COUNTY HEALTH EXECUTIVES
ALL COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH DIRECTORS
ALL COUNTY MEDI-CAL LIAISONS

SUBJECT: ERRATA TO ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS LETTER 03-31
CHANGES TO THE MODEL WAIVER PROGRAM

The purpose of this letter is to inform counties that the Model Nursing Facility (NF) Waiver program has been terminated. In its place, Medi-Cal In-Home Operations (IHO) has received approval for the NF Level A and B and NF Subacute Waivers. These waivers are being renamed the Medi-Cal IHO Waivers rather than the Medi-Cal Home and Community Based Waiver as described in All County Welfare Directors Letter 03-31. Additionally, just as the Model NF Waiver allowed, these waivers will allow individuals to be eligible under special eligibility rules.

Background

The prior Model NF Waiver allowed persons who would otherwise reside in a skilled nursing facility to remain at home and obtain Medi-Cal eligibility without consideration of a parent's income or resources if the applicant were a child or used spousal institutional deeming rules if the applicant lived at home with his/her spouse.

Services

The services under the Medi-Cal IHO Waivers include case management, private duty nursing, home health aides, personal care services, respite care, family training, and minor physical adaptations to the home.

Referring Agency

The Department of Health Services, Medi-Cal IHO will continue to evaluate and refer persons to the appropriate county waiver contact. Some information about IHO is enclosed.

- Number 1: Letter to new IHO individual to contact appropriate county except Los Angeles(LA)
- Number 2; Letter to new IHO individual in LA County that LA County will contact him/her
- Number 3: Letter to inform beneficiary that he/she is being changed from the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) waiver to the IHO waiver

Some beneficiaries may be moved from the DDS waiver to one of the Medi-Cal IHO Waivers because the latter provides them with services that meet their specific medical care needs. In these instances, the county is required to change the beneficiary's aid code from the DDS waiver to the appropriate Medi-Cal IHO Waiver's aid code because a beneficiary can be enrolled in only one home and community-based services waiver at a time.

Eligibility Criteria

The eligibility rules for the Medi-Cal IHO Waiver applicant are the same as the former Model NF Waiver. See the Medi-Cal Procedures Manual Article 19D for more information. This section of the manual will be updated in the future to reflect this and other changes.

- Example 1: A child under age 19 living at home with a parent has a share-of-cost (SOC) in the Medically Needy (MN) or Medically Indigent program or excess property when counting the parent's income and/or property. The county determines the child is eligible for one of the Medi-Cal IHO Waivers, which disregards income and property of the parent under the appropriate Percent program when waiver rules are applied to this determination using a family size of one. He/she would then be reported to Medi-Cal Eligibility Data System (MEDS) using one of the appropriate Medi-Cal Waiver aid codes.

Example 2: An aged person who is living at home with a spouse and does not qualify for the Aged and Disabled Federal Poverty Level program has an SOC in the MN program or has excess property in either program. The county determines this person is eligible using program rules under one of the Medi-Cal IHO Waivers after the county applies spousal institutional deeming rules. The person should be reported to MEDS using the appropriate Medi-Cal IHO Waivers aid code.

Aid Codes

Persons in the Medi-Cal IHO Waiver will be identified on the MEDS with the same aid codes as were used for the prior Model NF waiver. These are:

6X Medi-Cal IHO Waiver No SOC 6Y Medi-Cal IHO Waiver SOC

Effective Date

This change was effective April 1, 2002; however, since only the name of the waiver has changed and the same aid codes are being used, it is not necessary for counties to do anything retroactively.

Notices of Action (NOAs), Forms and Brochures

The existing Model Waiver approval (MC 343) and denial/discontinuance (MC 344) NOAs were modified to reflect the new name and are enclosed. The Model NF Waiver Screening form (DHS 7097) will no longer be used. The IHO brochures were enclosed in ACWDL 03-31. Please retain those for your information.

If you have any further questions, please contact Ms. Marge Buzdas at (916) 552-9481 or email her at mbuzdas@dhs.ca.gov.

Original signed by

Beth Fife, Chief
Medi-Cal Eligibility

Enclosures