

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



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July 8, 2004

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS Letter No.: 04-26
ALL COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS
ALL COUNTY MEDI-CAL PROGRAM SPECIALISTS/LIAISONS
ALL COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH DIRECTORS
ALL COUNTY HEALTH EXECUTIVES

SUBJECT: PREGNANCY EXEMPTION FOR THE MIDYEAR STATUS REPORT

Reference: All County Welfare Directors Letter Nos. 03-41 and 04-06

The purpose of this All County Welfare Directors Letter (ACWDL) is to provide counties with clarification regarding the exemption from the Midyear Status Report (MSR) requirement based on pregnancy and the 60-day postpartum period. Previous instruction to counties contained in ACWDL No. 03-41 specified that pregnant women whose only eligibility is based on pregnancy are exempt from MSR requirements.

For the simplicity of program administration, the Department of Health Services (DHS) is providing counties with new guidelines exempting all pregnant women who have reported their pregnancy to the county eligibility worker from the MSR requirement. To qualify for exemption from the MSR requirement based on pregnancy, a non-exempt beneficiary must notify the county eligibility worker that she is pregnant. This notification can be done through the beneficiary's contact with the county. Contact would include, but not be limited to, submission of the annual redetermination (RV) form MC 210 RV or the MSR form MC 176 S in which the pregnancy is reported.

Once the county is notified, the pregnant woman will be determined exempt from the MSR requirement for the duration of her pregnancy and the 60-day postpartum period. The mandatory MSR requirement will resume at the next regular interval after the 60-day postpartum period ends, unless the beneficiary qualifies for another MSR exemption. The MSR should be due six months after the last annual redetermination or application, according to the same schedule prior to her pregnancy exemption. When a beneficiary reports her pregnancy, counties must rescind any prior termination based on failure to return the MSR that was due during the time the beneficiary was pregnant or in the 60-day postpartum period.

Provided below are examples of MSR processing for pregnant women:

Medi-Cal case: Incapacitated Parent Deprivation. Mother, father, and two children, age 10 and 13. MSR mail month is June 2004.

- The father is incapacitated.
- The father and mother are non-exempt MSR beneficiaries.
- On May 10, 2004, the mother notifies the county via telephone that she is three months pregnant.
- The county changes the mother's MSR status to exempt since she has reported her pregnancy.
- The county sets tickler for November 2004 to review the mother's pregnancy status.
- The MSR is mailed to the household in June 2004.
- Since the mother has already reported her pregnancy and if there are no other changes to report, the father completes the MSR and checks box in Section 1: No Changes to Report.
- The mother reports the birth of her child to the county on November 22, 2004.
- The mother remains exempt from MSR reporting through the 60-day postpartum period (December 2004-January 2005).
- In January 2005, the household is required to complete the annual RV.
- The county changes mother's MSR status to nonexempt effective February 2005.

Medi-Cal case: Absent-Parent Deprivation. Mother and one child, age six. MSR mail month is July 2004.

- The mother is a non-exempt MSR beneficiary.
- The MSR is mailed to the mother in July 2004.
- On July 12, 2004, the mother contacts the county to report that she is pregnant and her expected due date is January 11, 2005.
- The mother is advised that she is not required to complete and return the MSR.
- The county changes the mother's MSR status to exempt and sets tickler for January 2005 to review her pregnancy status.

Same case situation as above.

- The mother is a non-exempt MSR beneficiary.
- The mother becomes pregnant, but does not report her pregnancy to the county.
- The MSR is mailed to the mother in July 2004.
- The mother fails to complete and submit the MSR.

- The mother's Medi-Cal benefits are discontinued effective September 1, 2004.
- On September 6, 2004, the mother reports to the county that she is pregnant, with an expected due date of January 11, 2005.
- The county redetermines eligibility and rescinds the mother's discontinuance action.
- The mother's MSR status is changed to exempt.
- The county sets tickler for January 2005, to review the mother's pregnancy status.
- In February 2005, the mother is required to complete the annual RV and reports birth of her child.
- The county changes the mother's MSR status to nonexempt effective April 2005.

Medi-Cal case: Unemployed Parent Deprivation. Mother (pregnant), father, and one child, age 15. MSR mail month is July 2004.

- The father is a nonexempt MSR beneficiary and the pregnant mother is an exempt MSR beneficiary.
- The mother's estimated due date is August 15, 2004.
- On August 2, 2004, the father completes and submits the MSR with no changes annotated.
- On August 17, 2004, via telephone contact to the county, the mother reports the birth of her child and that she has been determined disabled by the Social Security Administration.
- The county continues the mother as an exempt MSR beneficiary, effective September 2004.

DHS will revise the MSR form (MC 176 S) at a later date. Counties shall continue to use the current MSR form, which requests that information be reported about changes in the household, such as, whether anyone has become pregnant. Additionally, the current MSR form states that pregnant women whose eligibility is limited to pregnancy-only benefits do not need to complete and return the MSR.

If you have any questions about this ACWDL, please contact Mr. Mack Guynn, Analyst in the Medi-Cal Eligibility Branch, at (916) 552-9508 or by e-mail at mguynn@dhs.ca.gov.

Original signed by

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