



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



ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER
Governor

June 18, 2008

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS Letter No.: 08-26
ALL COUNTY WELFARE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS
ALL COUNTY MEDI-CAL PROGRAM SPECIALISTS/LIAISONS
ALL COUNTY HEALTH EXECUTIVES
ALL COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH DIRECTORS
ALL COUNTY MEDS LIAISONS

SUBJECT: NEW ALPHA-NUMERIC AID CODE (E1) FOR HEALTHY FAMILY
BRIDGING OF UNVERIFIED CITIZENS

The purpose of this letter is to inform counties of the creation of a "new" alpha-numeric aid code. The purpose of the aid code is to bridge otherwise eligible children who are unable to verify citizenship/identity past the reasonable period to the Healthy Families program (HFP). The Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 requirements make it necessary to create a limited scope aid code for the Medi-Cal to HFP program Bridging. The projected implementation date for this aid code is the July 2008 month of eligibility.

The Bridging program is currently for children under age 19 who no longer qualify for zero share of cost (SOC), full-scope Medi-Cal, but who appear to be eligible to the HFP. Children who are without satisfactory immigration status remain ineligible for Bridging because the HFP does not provide benefits without satisfactory immigration status. However, HFP has different requirements for verifying immigration status and those children unable to meet Medi-Cal citizenship/identity verification requirements may still qualify for HFP.

The Bridging program currently provides one month of full-scope zero SOC coverage using aid code 7X. Bridging provides one month extended coverage while the case file information is transferred from the Medi-Cal program to the HFP when bridging requirements are met, including consent or time for the family to apply for HFP if consent is not given.

Summary of HFP eligibility requirements:

- United States citizen or qualified alien.
- Under age 19.
- Net family income must be at or below 250 percent of the federal poverty level (FPL).
- Not in any no SOC Medi-Cal program.

A new limited-scope program aid code has been developed for Bridging, aid code E1. Unverified citizens on Medi-Cal limited-scope benefits, due to lack of citizenship documentation will be placed in this limited-scope Medi-Cal program aid code and receive one month limited-scope, no SOC coverage while their case is referred to HFP for determination if all other Bridging criteria are met.

A reduction from full-scope to limited-scope Medi-Cal benefits because the individual cannot provide evidence of citizenship/identity status is not, in and of itself, a valid reason to provide bridging benefits or a referral to the HFP. If, however, a beneficiary is receiving limited-scope Medi-Cal benefits because the individual cannot provide verification of citizenship/identity status after the reasonable period has ended, and a child moves from zero SOC to a SOC or becomes ineligible because of assets, counties must bridge the child at the limited-scope benefits level and refer the case to the HFP.

July 2008 month of eligibility is the implementation date for E1. Counties may use E1 after that date. Until July 2008 or until counties can instruct staff about this aid code, counties are to continue to place children in the full-scope bridging aid code 7X.

Should counties have questions about this aid code, please call Ms. Rose Pankratz at (916) 552-9462. Questions about Bridging should be addressed to Ms. Cynthia Lawrence at (916) 552-9489.

Original Signed By Bill Walsh for:

Vivian Auble, Chief
Medi-Cal Eligibility Division