



DAVID MAXWELL-JOLLY
Director

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



ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER
Governor

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TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS Letter No. : 10-28
ALL COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS
ALL COUNTY MEDI-CAL PROGRAM SPECIALIST/LIAISONS
ALL COUNTY HEALTH EXECUTIVES
ALL COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH DIRECTORS

SUBJECT: IMPLEMENTATION OF AID CODE 4H FOR FOSTER CARE CHILDREN IN
CalWORKs PROGRAM AND AID CODE 4L FOR FOSTER CARE
CHILDREN IN THE 1931(b) PROGRAM.
(Ref: All County Welfare Directors Letter Numbers: 86-68, 00-22)

The purpose of this letter is to inform counties that the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) is adding two new aid codes, 4H and 4L, to identify children placed with relatives who are in foster care and in CalWORKs or Section 1931(b). These children are not in the existing foster care (FC) aid codes because they are not eligible for Aid to Families with Dependent Children-Foster Care (AFDC-FC) benefits and are receiving California Work Opportunity and Responsibility for Kids (CalWORKs) or 1931(b) Medi-Cal. DHCS will be using the two new aid codes to identify these children so they have the option of choosing either fee-for-service or Medi-Cal managed care health care coverage in the Two-Plan Model and Geographic Managed Care (GMC) counties. These aid codes will also allow these children to be easily identified for other FC-linked benefits, such as former foster care services after they turn age 18.

Background

Current State law, Welfare and Institutions (W&I) Code, Section 14093.09 exempts FC children from mandatory enrollment into Medi-Cal managed care in the Two-Plan Model and GMC counties. The law defines a foster child as any child who has been taken into custody or has been placed by a juvenile court (pursuant to W&I Code Section 300 or 601/602).

Because some FC children placed with relatives do not meet the eligibility criteria for AFDC-FC, those children are not identified as FC when they are included in the CalWORKs or 1931(b) cases and are assigned the aid codes 30 and 3N, which are mandatory aid codes for Medi-Cal managed care enrollment. This mandatory enrollment may cause access-to-care issues for this vulnerable population.

Aid Code Descriptions

In order to enable children in FC to remain in a voluntary Medi-Cal managed care status, DHCS has created the two new 4H and 4L aid codes that are available effective December 2010. They are for full scope, no share-of-cost, Medi-Cal that is federally funded under Title XIX. Counties shall use the 4H aid code to identify FC children placed with relatives and applying for or receiving CalWORKs and use the 4L aid code for the FC children under 1931(b) Medi-Cal to enable the caretaker relatives of these children to choose the best health care delivery options to meet their needs.

4H-CalWORKs Foster Care

Aid code 4H is to replace the current aid code 30 for FC children receiving CalWORKs. These children are in FC living with a relative residing in California. The California Department of Social Services is issuing separate instruction to CalWORKs program workers to put these children in the 4H aid code since this aid code is linked to CalWORKs eligibility requirements and no separate Medi-Cal determination is conducted by counties. The following conditions apply to aid code 4H:

- This is a mandatory categorically eligible population with full scope Medi-Cal. No separate application, income, or asset test is required to establish
 - Medi-Cal for these children.
- Eligibles in this aid code will have voluntary enrollment status in Two-Plan Model and GMC counties, but mandatory enrollment status in County Organized Health System (COHS) counties for Medi-Cal managed care plans.
- Annual redetermination of Medi-Cal will be conducted as with other CalWORKs recipients. This change in service delivery options does not impact eligibility.
- This population will be eligible for the Former Foster Care Children Program (FFCCP), aid code 4M, upon aging out of the FC system.

4L-1931(b) Foster Care

Aid code 4L is to replace aid code 3N for FC children receiving Medi-Cal under 1931(b). These children are in FC living with a relative residing in California. The following conditions apply to aid code 4L:

- This is a mandatory eligible population with full-scope Medi-Cal.
- Eligibles in this aid code will have voluntary enrollment status in Two-Plan Model and GMC counties, but mandatory enrollment status in COHS counties for Medi-Cal managed care plans.
- Annual redetermination of Medi-Cal will be conducted as with other 1931(b) recipients. The aid code change for service delivery options does not have any impact on the current 1931(b) program eligibility requirements.
- This population will be eligible for the FFCCP, aid code 4M, upon aging out of the FC system.

County Reviews Required

These two aid codes will be activated starting with the December 2010, month of eligibility. Counties should put these children in the new aid codes at application, annual redetermination, or the earliest time the county becomes aware of a FC child in a 30 or 3N aid code. If counties are contacted by the child's caretaker relative or FC placement worker regarding the child's managed care enrollment, counties shall immediately complete a case review and change the child's current aid code (30 or 3N) to the appropriate new aid code if otherwise eligible.

If you have questions about this letter, please call Helen Barrera at (916) 552-9482 or at helen.barrera@dhcs.ca.gov.

Original signed by:

René Mollow, MSN, RN, Chief
Medi-Cal Eligibility Division