



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



EDMUND G. BROWN JR.
Governor

October 17, 2016

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS Letter No.: 16-22
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: Discrepancies Between Statewide Automated Welfare Systems and
the Medi-Cal Eligibility Data System at Reconciliation, the Use of
Immediate Need Transactions to Resolve Discrepancies, and Recent
MEDS Changes

The purpose of this letter is to remind counties of the current business process involving the Medi-Cal Eligibility Data System (MEDS) Reconciliation (Recon) with the Statewide Automated Welfare Systems (SAWS) that can affect ongoing eligibility for some individuals and the appropriate use of Immediate Need MEDS transactions. This letter also informs counties of a MEDS change that has been implemented on August 25, 2016, to prevent enrollment of undocumented individuals under age 19 into restricted scope aid codes.

Background

Counties have identified two scenarios in which an individual placed in a full scope aid code using MEDS online transactions is subsequently placed into the restricted scope equivalent aid code during MEDS Recon processing.

Scenario #1

An individual is identified as under age 19, undocumented and eligible for full scope Medi-Cal. The County Eligibility Worker (CEW) entered the individual's information in SAWS and ran the Eligibility Determination and Benefit Calculation (EDBC). The result placed the individual into restricted scope Medi-Cal in error. Pursuant to All County Welfare Director's Letter (ACWDL) 16-12: Senate Bill 75 Full Scope Medi-Cal for

Individuals under Age 19 Regardless of Immigration Status, all children regardless of immigration status under the age of 19 shall be eligible for full scope Medi-Cal as of May 1, 2016. The CEW established full scope eligibility in MEDS by submitting an online EW 20 transaction which created a discrepancy between the SAWS and MEDS. During the Recon process, the incorrect SAWS eligibility is compared to the correct MEDS eligibility submitted by the CEW. In an effort to resolve this discrepancy, MEDS reconciles the data by generating MEDS transactions to update MEDS with the information found on the county SAWS record. In this situation, MEDS transactions generated from Recon placed the individual back into the restricted scope aid code to match SAWS.

Counties are reminded to ensure eligibility in SAWS reflects full scope Medi-Cal in such situations. By doing so, the action will trigger the appropriate EW 20 transaction from SAWS to MEDS with the correct eligibility and align the information in both systems and prevent any data discrepancies at MEDS Recon.

Scenario #2

An individual is identified as under age 19, undocumented and eligible for full scope Medi-Cal. The CEW entered the individual's information in SAWS and ran EDBC. The result placed the individual into restricted scope Medi-Cal in error. Pursuant to ACWDL 16-12, all children regardless of immigration status under the age of 19 shall be eligible for full scope Medi-Cal as of May 1, 2016. Given the eligibility determination error, the CEW established full-scope eligibility by submitting an online EW 15 transaction to MEDS. An EW 20 transaction to confirm the eligibility was not submitted to MEDS prior to MEDS Renewal.

At MEDS Renewal, MEDS looks for a confirmation EW 20 MEDS transaction. Since the confirmation EW 20 MEDS transaction was not submitted, the new eligibility expired, which created a discrepancy between SAWS and MEDS.

During the Recon process, the incorrect SAWS eligibility is compared to MEDS. In an effort to resolve this discrepancy, MEDS reconciles the data by generating MEDS transactions to update MEDS with the information found on the county SAWS record. In this situation, MEDS transactions generated from Recon would place the individual into the restricted scope aid code currently reflected in SAWS.

Note: Even if a confirmation online EW 20 had been submitted, the Recon process would have produced the same result since the eligibility determination reflected in SAWS was incorrect.

Counties are reminded that an EW 15 MEDS transaction shall only be submitted in those situations that meet the definition of Immediate Need. Information regarding Immediate Need eligibility can be found in the Medi-Cal Eligibility Procedures Manual Section 4J,

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ACWDL(s) 81-04, 82-60, 88-01, and 89-12, and in Medi-Cal Eligibility Division Information Letter (MEDIL) 14-11. Once the EW 15 MEDS transaction has been submitted, the CEW shall follow up with the appropriate SAWS transaction. This may involve an override action in the SAWS system to keep the individual in the full scope aid code.

Recent Change for Restricted Scope Aid Codes in MEDS

In accordance to policies outlined in ACWDL 16-12, the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) has implemented an age edit to restricted scope aid codes to prevent enrollment of individuals under the age of 19 into these aid codes. The change will reject all MEDS batch and online transaction enrollment into restricted scope aid codes for individuals under the age of 19. This change includes the generation of age-related MEDS alerts to prompt counties if such transactions are sent to MEDS. This age edit for restricted scope aid codes was implemented on August 25, 2016.

If you have any questions or need further information, please contact Ms. Tina Wilson at (916) 319-9785 or by email at Tina.Wilson@dhcs.ca.gov.

Original Signed By

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